

**CAPE hosts first Sacto reception**  
Gay and straight lawmakers mingle  
and discuss proposed legislation.  
page 13

**Just in time for Valentine's**  
Think Again activists ask you  
to think twice about marriage.  
page 14



**Painted photos**  
Pierre et Gilles come  
to Yerba Buena Center.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 6 • 8 February 2001

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## Partner, friends recall mauling victim

by Ed Walsh

Friends and family of Diane Whipple are reacting with shock, anger, and deep sadness over the dog mauling that took her life outside her Pacific Heights apartment on January 26.



Diane Whipple

"We are blessed that God gave her to us for 33 years," said Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, at Whipple's memorial Mass last Thursday, February 1. The service was held at St. Mary's College in Moraga where Whipple was the lacrosse coach. Smith referred to Whipple using her middle name, Alexis.

"Alexis was the most significant person in my life the past seven years," Smith told the 600 mourners as her voice choked with emotion. "And I know she touched us all in different ways. But we would all agree that she has an amazing spirit."

Smith read from a poem written to her by Whipple. Its last lines were: "When you look at your life, what do you see? Hopefully, you'll see yourself and join life with me. I love you, Alexis."

Those gathered later laughed through tears as Whipple's close friend from her college days, Cheri DiCerno, reminded them of Whipple's sense of humor.

"I knew with certain guarantee, every few weeks I would get a package from Diane labeled 'bigger head' and it would be the silliest things, like a bag full of rotten candy, an old picture from me from days I want to forget about. She would write 'Remember then? I'm going to blackmail you someday!' funny things like that. To me she was a champion, not because she was an All-American athlete but she was one of my best friends in the world."

"She was 'Peanut' as she called herself but she had a giant heart and a giant spirit. I think that she left this world happy. I really believe that. She loved Sharon. She loved what she did," DiCerno said.

"I know her spirit will always be with us. And it still is. I know it is. And she would be laughing at me, she is saying 'What are you doing?'" DiCerno said as the crowd broke up in laughter. "Or she is looking at my pantyhose which I tried to patch be-

page 19 ►

## No 'sex Nazis' at Gold's Gym, manager says

by Dennis Conkin

No, Virginia, the staff of Gold's Gym on Market Street in the Castro are not "sex Nazis" as one disgruntled Bay Area Reporter reader complained, they are actually dedicated to maintaining an excellent facility and providing quality customer service.

But, if you are discovered *en flagrante delicto* or in any other kind of sexual activity, solo or otherwise, you might as well head for the showers, because you could lose your membership and be banned for life, according to Gwynn Villegas, manager. At the very least, you should expect a strong warning about your personal conduct.

Signs informing members that sexual activity is prohibited are posted because San Francisco has rules governing such matters, Villegas pointed out.

"I'm not here to provide a place for sexual activity. I'm simply maintaining operations," he said.

Villegas said that there is a very popular sex club for men who wish to have sexual activity within walking distance of the gym.

"Eros is just two blocks away and there's the Steamworks in Berkeley. There are establishments where people can go to participate in that kind of behavior," he said.

Villegas said his opinions about sex in the sauna or other steamy notions are just that—his opinions—and that by enforcing bans against such conduct, he is following San Francisco ordinances that make such activity illegal.



Gold's management says that it's running a gym, not a sex club.

Whether sexual behavior is rampant at the gym or merely an occasional problem must remain a bit of a mystery, however, because Villegas flat out refused to say.

"I don't care to comment," he said, pleasantly.

Reaction from members to renovations and improvements including an expansion of

the space since Gold's Gym took over operations of the former Market Street Gym in February 2000 have been "exceedingly favorable," according to Villegas.

And, he said, Gold's Gym is just that, a place for healthy exercise—not sex.

"We're running a gym, not a bathhouse," he noted. ▼

## Government revises HIV treatment guidelines

by Bob Roehr

A revised version of HIV treatment guidelines issued Monday, February 5 takes a less aggressive approach on when to start therapy. The changes reflect what has become common practice among the most experienced physicians treating HIV, and likely will have the greatest impact on those doctors who treat only a few cases of the disease and who rely upon such documents to shape their practice.

The "Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents" document is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The first version was published in 1998, with revisions coming at least once a year, sometimes more frequently.

The new version recommends that therapy not be started until a person's CD4+ T-cells fall below 350, or the blood plasma viral load passes a certain minimum level—30,000 copies as measured by the branched DNA test, 55,000 copies as measured by the RT-PCR test—with a higher T-cell count.

The previous guidelines set an earlier standard for intervention of 500 T-cells and viral load levels of 10,000 or 20,000 copies as measured by those same respective tests. A normal immune system has 800-1,000 T-cells on average and no virus in the blood. At the other end of the progression, serious illness begins to appear once T-cells sink below the level of 200 and accelerates below 100. Viral load at this point, absent therapy, can be well above 100,000 copies.

The initial guidelines were developed soon after protease inhibitors came into widespread use. They were based on the hope that by using these drugs to "hit it early, hit it hard," in the mantra of noted researcher David Ho, head of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York, the virus could be eradicated.

All too soon it became apparent that this was a false hope, virus quickly took up residence in certain tissue and cell compartments beyond reach of the drugs. Even when virus was cleared from the blood, it could trickle back in from these reservoirs to re-infect those portions of the body that had been cleared of virus. Drug associated toxicities also became more apparent.

"We are very concerned about a number of toxicities associated with the long-term use of antiretroviral drugs," said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. This is one of the primary reasons for pushing back when to start therapy under the guidelines.

### The exception

One major exception on when to start is acute or primary HIV infection. That is a brief window of perhaps 90 days or so from the time one is exposed to HIV to the time one exhibits antibodies to the virus. Many people experience flu-like symptoms during this period.

The only way to determine the presence of HIV during acute infection is with a PCR

assay that measures the virus itself. And even that is not likely to work in the first two weeks, as there may not be enough virus in the blood for the test to measure effectively. The common Elisa test used to screen most people for HIV infection will not work because the body has not yet generated those antibodies that the Elisa assay measures.

Very limited research in a small number of people who began therapy during acute

page 20 ►

### INSIDE

BAR Talk	46
Classifieds	23
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	40
Obituaries	21
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	30
Out & About	38
OutRight	11
Personals	49
Sports Complex	22
Survive AIDS	20
Transmissions	10





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## Here she is – Miss TGSF 2001



**S**avanah, center, was crowned Miss TGSF 2001 at Transgender San Francisco's annual Cotillion last Saturday, February 3 at the Design Center Galleria. She was congratulated by Kalani, left, who was named second runner-up. Rachael, right, was named first runner-up.

## HRC gets TG commish

by Katie Szymanski

In this model town of queer rights, it's hardly surprising that San Francisco now has its first openly transgendered commissioner on the city's Human Rights Commission. But it is astounding to learn that she and many other transgenderers in so-called safe cities with trans-friendly non-discrimination policies are still deemed unworthy of hire by employers.

Theresa Sparks, 50, was sworn in as a human rights commissioner last Friday, February 2, a title bestowed upon her when she was appointed by Mayor Willie Brown. As the first transgender person ever to serve on the commission, Sparks said one of her top priorities will be to continue to explore queer economic empowerment and transgender unemployment, topics that her colleagues began to vigorously pursue a few years ago. In a recent study, noted Sparks, 70 percent of the nation's transgender people were under-employed, and the situation in this city isn't exactly a bed of roses, either.

"I've been a CEO of different corporations over the years, but for many months I've been unable to get a position for which I have the qualifications," Sparks told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Consequently, I've been driving cabs, working for the Census Bureau, anything I can find that will allow me to stay here. We have an ordinance here but they'll always find something wrong with your qualifications when it comes to the hiring process."

Sparks, who has been a resident of San Francisco on and off for 15 years (moving for jobs when she couldn't find one in the city), welcomes her new appointment as a chance to bring queer issues to the mainstream and work for justice on a broader scale.

"Trans rights are human rights, and that's what I really like about this commission," said



Commissioner Theresa Sparks

Sparks. "The trans aspect is a component of the entire spectrum, and I'm excited that as a transsexual woman I'm able to get involved in a variety of issues."

As a trans woman, a member of the Supervisor Mark Leno's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, and a founding member of the Transgender Political Caucus, Sparks is keenly aware that her position can be used to further public awareness of discrimi-

nation based on gender expression.

"Between the employment issues, the suicide rate for young trans people, and the murder rate, which stands at 1.5 per month nationwide, these statistics are shocking," said Sparks, adding that the city's transgender ordinance should cover all gender-variant individuals, from the too-butched woman to the feminine man, people who qualify for protections regardless of how they identify. "If nothing else, I want to bring these issues to the attention of the public."

Sparks is the third openly transgendered city commissioner, joining Veronika Cauley of the Veterans Affairs Commission and Denise D'Anne of the Building Inspection Commission. Openly transgender Jane Bolig was a member of the Taxi Commission but has resigned.

As a commissioner, Sparks will donate her time to two meetings a month to discuss and work for equality as it relates to all minority groups.

"I not only want to push the trans envelope," she said, "but I'd like to push the progressive envelope as well." ▼

## Public comment open on draft HIV Consensus

by Cynthia Laird

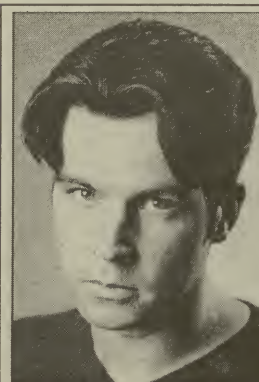
The draft report from last month's HIV Consensus meeting is on the Internet and public comment is being accepted through this Tuesday, February 13, according to Mike Shriver, AIDS policy adviser to Mayor Willie Brown and the University of California, San Francisco, which posted the document.

San Francisco's epidemiologists and researchers gathered in

City Hall January 19 to develop consensus around HIV infection rates in the city. After much discussion, the panel agreed that among men who have sex with men, estimates are that HIV incidence rates within that population have risen to 2.2 percent per year, about double what the rate was in 1997, when the last Consensus report was developed.

With an estimated citywide population of 46,800 men who have sex with men (but excluding

page 5 ►



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# Redevelopment meeting incites anti-gay anger

by Katie Szymanski

If ever there was a scary environment to be an LGBT person, the February 6 Redevelopment Commission meeting redefined what it means to be a minority embroiled in a conflict that was destined to be divisive.

At issue were accusations from Commissioner Mark Dunlop that Commissioner Leroy King made disparaging remarks about his sexual orientation and HIV status and then threatened his safety at a meeting last month.

According to Dunlop, after a heated debate during the Commission's January 23 meeting, King told the openly gay Dunlop he was "not a real man," and that his "sickness was starting to affect the mind." He also allegedly said he knew people who could "take care of" Dunlop. Witness to this reported attack was Commissioner Ramon Romero, who has supported Dunlop's account of the events. Supervisor Tom Ammiano has publicly called for King's resignation, and Mayor Willie Brown has asked the state attorney general to investigate the matter.

King, an African American known for his community leadership, drew hundreds of supporters to Tuesday night's meeting, thanks in part to widely-distributed fliers that called the allegations "lies" started by commissioners "who want to see the Black community leader removed from the Redevelopment Commission."

The fliers did not mention the allegations or the seriousness behind them, and so went the meeting: the actual alleged attacks were not addressed, but instead King's supporters insisted that he was the victim of racism. Many also said they were tired of heterosexuals being accused of homophobia every time they disagreed with a gay person.

It was a difficult meeting to attend as a queer person, a population clearly outnumbered and undeniably the target of anger. Likewise, this is a difficult article to write without furthering the divisions that many people seem determined to perpetuate. The following statements, recorded in the order in which they were given, should therefore speak for themselves:

"African Americans are the last hired and the first fired," said King supporter Charlie Walker. "If anything happens to Leroy King, I'm not threatening you - I'm telling you - every black person in this city will keep this agency out of Bayview."

The crowd erupted into ap-

pause.

"When I was running for supervisor some people told me that they could not endorse me because they had heard I made a homophobic statement," said former Supervisor Amos Brown, who blamed racism for his recent defeat but saw his support plummet last year when he evicted an elderly woman and her disabled gay son so that he could move into District 11 to run for office again. "For that to have happened to me and now to Commissioner King is outrageous. Anyone with a difference of opinion is accused of being homophobic. It appears some people on this commission are bordering on being hetero-phobic. I'm not going to let anybody else intimidate another black leader in this town with these accusations."

The crowd once again applauded.

"I've seen many falsely accused," said Peter Graham, legal counsel to the NAACP, "of this charge which regularly rises in this city."

"You call us niggers," said one woman identified as Mary. "So what's the difference?"

The crowd chuckled in approval.

"I'm tired of people being demonized when they have the courage to stand up and say what they believe is wrong," said Joe O'Donoghue, head of the Residential Builder's Association and a known opponent of the Easter festivities held by drag nuns Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. "If Commissioner Dunlop was giving you the same body language he has given to me, then I wouldn't have said what you are accused of saying. Commissioner King, I would have elbowed him right in the jaw."

This remark was greeted by laughter and thunderous applause from the audience, and King then glanced at Dunlop and smiled.

"Every time I make a decision that a gay person doesn't agree with I am called homophobic," said labor leader Josie Mooney. "Stop accusing us of homophobia just because we disagree with you."

Some who spoke in favor of King said that even if personal attacks were made by the commissioner, they weren't heard by others, and so should be resolved in private. Still others blamed the accusations on a conspiracy to rid City Hall of all people aligned with Mayor Brown.

There were a few who spoke in favor of Dunlop by stating that without assuming guilt, the serious accusations should be investigated. Paul Hogan, the current

chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, commented on his group's support for Mayor Brown in the last election and said he was proud of the coalitions the club built between gays and African Americans. He then said that King supporters should not assume that Dunlop would lie, and that any accusations of such a nature should be taken seriously. He was quickly dismissed with boos and groans.

"I have never felt so much hostility. It was disturbing," Hogan later told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And yet at the same time the gay community doesn't have a quarrel with the African American community, so I don't want to see this turn into something it doesn't need to. Whoever made the decision to whip up these theories and escalate this ... I'd have to question their motives."

To Dunlop, who sat through the comments for hours and called the barrage an "orchestrated attack," most of the opinions expressed missed the point.

"This has nothing to do with color. This is what one person said to another," said Dunlop. "His words speak for themselves. I don't have to call them 'homophobic' or 'AIDS-phobic.' I've been able to disagree with him a zillion times and homophobia never even crossed my mind. This time it not only crossed my mind but it crossed the line."

"We are the last community in which someone can get away with this," he added, referring to the personal attacks allowed at the meeting. Redevelopment Chair Benny Yee, whose duty it is to prohibit such attacks, did nothing, at times even smiling with the crowd.

Ammiano, who watched the meeting from the overflow room, said the crowd was a small faction known for inciting such divisions, and that the attacks against Dunlop were "unsettling."

"It's one thing to go and support King, but quite another to dehumanize Dunlop," Ammiano told the B.A.R. "Unfortunately there are people out there who have a vested interest in trying to fan the fires of conflict between the black and gay communities."

Dunlop, for his part, says he will not back down.

"I'd go through this 10,000 times," said Dunlop. "One, because an attack against a gay person with AIDS is an attack against every gay person and every person with AIDS. And secondly, because this agency does such great work and I want to see it continue to operate effectively, developing affordable housing and working with communities." ▼

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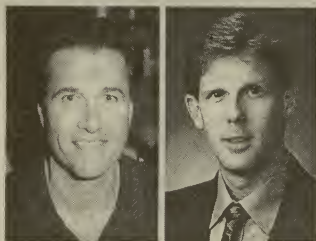
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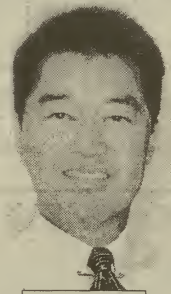
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## Imperial Court candidates shine



Midge Marcus

Candidates for the Imperial Crown of San Francisco were presented at the annual Imperial Gala last Saturday, February 3, held in the Pavilion Room of the Cathedral Hill Hotel. From left, Tom Basch and Ms. Gail Wood, candidates for Emperor; "Chablis" and "Tiger Lily," candidates for Empress. The public voting takes place Saturday, February 24 at Project Open Hand, 730 Polk Street, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Golden Gate Performing Arts, 400 Castro Street, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and ARC, at 1500 Howard Street, noon-4 p.m.

## Rally for gay marriage on Valentine's Day

by Dennis Conkin

A Valentine's Day noon rally for marriage equality will be held on the steps of San Francisco City Hall Wednesday, February 14 to dramatize the injustice of denying same-sex couples the right to marry.

The event will include a peaceful effort of same-sex couples attempting to apply for marriage licenses - not registration of domestic partnerships - at the City Hall marriage license counters, according to organizers.

Speakers at the event will include Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano; Kate Kendell, of the National Center For Lesbian Rights; and Mike Marshall, former campaign manager of last year's No on 22 campaign.

"Valentine's Day is the appropriate day because of what it means," Ammiano said. "This is all about self-determination. If you want to get married, you should be able to get married."

Organizer Marriage Equality

California has chosen the occasion because more people get engaged or married on Valentine's Day than any other day of the year. MECA will be holding rallies in other California cities, including Eureka, Sacramento, and Los Angeles.

MECA has more than 5,000 members and is part of Marriage Equality USA, a group dedicated to ending marriage discrimination against lesbian and gay couples. The group maintains an extensive Web site at [www.marriageequality.com](http://www.marriageequality.com). ▼

## Buddhist Valentine's party February 17

by Dennis Conkin

Monks and nuns of the Saraha Buddhist Center in San Francisco will celebrate Valentine's Day with a party at the Fort Mason Firehouse, next Saturday, February 17 from 7 to 10 p.m.

In addition to "contra-dancing," a kind of American folk line dancing replete with a caller, there will be live music and "plenty of chocolate," supplied by an assortment of premiere San Francisco chocolatiers, according to Kelsang Kunchog, a member of the local center associated with the England-based New Kadampa Tradition Buddhist religious group.

A highlight of the event will be a panel game featuring monks and nuns from the lineage who will take and answer questions about love and relationships.

The annual event is a fundraiser and will allow local New Kadampa Tradition Buddhist leaders to provide low-cost and free meditation training throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The group has four other meditation centers in the Bay Area.

Each center organized by the group provides extensive study programs, meditation instruction, and retreats for all levels of practitioners, according to Kunchog.

The groups says its main emphasis is "on integrating Buddha's

teachings into daily life to solve our human problems and to spread a lasting peace and happiness throughout the world."

The New Kadampa Tradition is directed by Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, a controversial figure in Tibetan Buddhist tradition because of his public disagreement with the Dalai Lama over religious practices.

Kunchog told the B.A.R. that last year's event drew about 80 people.

Tickets are \$25 and available at the door, though advance reservations are recommended.

For more information call (415) 585-9161 or e-mail [SarahaEdu@aol.com](mailto:SarahaEdu@aol.com). New Kadampa Tradition maintains a Web site at [www.Kadampas.com](http://www.Kadampas.com). ▼

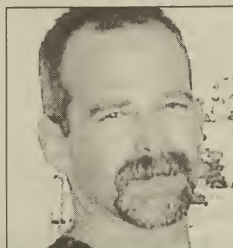
## Brian Carmichael convicted of battery

by Cynthia Laird

Brian Patrick Carmichael, who fought for improved care for prisoners with HIV while he was in prison several years ago, was convicted last month of battery on a peace officer, stemming from an incident at San Jose International Airport last September.

In an telephone interview from the Santa Clara County jail last week, Carmichael told the *Bay Area Reporter* that police officers overreacted during the airport incident, when police fell on Carmichael during a scuffle. Carmichael said he was attempting to get into a bag to get medication for his extremely ill brother, when police fell on him.

Carmichael apparently got into an argument with a juvenile on the plane in Dallas, where he was boarding with flight with his ill brother. The juvenile, whom Carmichael described as being 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds, wanted a seat that Carmichael was occupying. Somewhere between Dallas and San Jose, the police were notified and



Brian Carmichael

were waiting for Carmichael at the airport.

"The police never spoke to him [the juvenile]," Carmichael said. "He was the first one off the plane."

Carmichael, who is openly gay and living with HIV, maintains that the case against him was stacked, and said that medical records obtained by the defense showed no injury to the police officer who fell.

"His arm wasn't broken," Carmichael said. "There was no evidence that he sustained an injury."

Carmichael believes that the case against him resulted more from the fact that he's living with HIV. Because of injuries he sustained during the incident, Carmichael was transported by authorities to Valley Medical Center, where he told the attending physician of his HIV status. As soon as he said that, everything changed.

"Within minutes of telling the doctor, five cop cars were racing to Valley Medical Center," Carmichael said, including the officer who said he sustained an arm injury. Carmichael said that officer was examined two hours after Carmichael's arrest. "He had called in 'clear' and testified that he went to the station," Carmichael said.

Cherie Bourlard, the deputy district attorney who initially handled the case, told the B.A.R. last October that one of the officers suffered a broken wrist. At press time, Bourlard did not return calls from the B.A.R. inquiring about the apparent discrepancy. Carmichael's former attorney, public defender Ed Nino, also did not return calls seeking comment. ▼



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# Ex health commish sued by former lover

by Dennis Conkin

**F**ormer San Francisco Health Commissioner Ron Hill's woes increased last week when a former lover sued Hill for giving him HIV and he now faces possible arrest on felony bad check charges in this city.

According to the verified civil complaint filed in San Francisco Superior Court, Thomas Lister alleges that Hill committed civil battery, fraud, and intentional infliction of distress – and seeks unspecified damages.

Lister is represented by the law firm of Bourdon & Reisman.

According to California Health and Safety statutes, it is a felony if any person exposes another to HIV through unprotected sexual activity when the infected person knows he is infected and has not disclosed the information, and has acted with specific intent to infect the other person.

Lister filed a police report about the matter in December, but a criminal investigation determined that a conviction in the case would be unlikely and the district attorney's office declined to prosecute Hill on the charges.

Lister told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Hill's alleged behavior has affected him on many levels. In addition to the obvious concerns about his physical health, he is coping with the aftermath of the emotional betrayal – including the fact that "a person I was in a relationship with would lie about something as important as that."

Lister expressed incredulity that Hill was a member of the Health Commission at the time of the alleged incident.

"The fact that he was a health commissioner and lying about his status is unconscionable," Lister said.

Lister's civil lawsuit stated that he began dating Hill in March 2000 and that Hill later lived at his residence. Lister said that he consented to unprotected sex after Hill asserted that he was HIV-negative. Lister also asserted in the civil claim that Hill told him he suffered from cancer.

Lister said he discovered that Hill was lying to him in July 2000 when he found a medical document from Hill's physician which clearly indicated he suffered from AIDS.

"He denied it," Lister said. "And he continued to deny to me he is HIV-positive. Within a week of finding that document, I was undergoing the seroconversion process," Lister told the *B.A.R.* "Of course, I thought I just had a flu."

The lawsuit alleges that Hill also made an assertion that he was HIV-negative to a medical provider in Lister's presence. A deposition from that provider is



Ron Hill

likely to be part of the evidentiary record in the civil case.

Hill resigned his post as health commissioner last October after a story in the *B.A.R.* detailed that he was the subject of a Sonoma County arrest warrant on felony bad check charges. He surrendered voluntarily to Sonoma County authorities on the charges, which involved more than \$3,000 in funds owed to a Sonoma County furniture store.

That case was scheduled for deposition on February 6, pending Hill's proof of restitution on the bounced check.

Hill was appointed to the Health Commission by Mayor Willie Brown in 1997 and at the time of his resignation was chair of the commission's Finance Committee.

Although there is no officially designated seat for a gay man with HIV or AIDS on the Health Commission, there was a practice of such an appointment – and Hill was widely considered by observers to have been appointed to the post on the basis of his political connections as well as his HIV status.

"I deny every single thing he says," Hill said of Lister's charges. "I am filing a cross complaint against him and my attorney is suing him for slander. I am the most out person with HIV. I have been out for 15 years. It's ridiculous."

In 1998, a San Francisco gay man was found to be liable in a federal case for sexual battery after his lover discovered that he was HIV-positive and not HIV-negative as the man had claimed. In that case, Michael Robinson was awarded \$25,000 in emotional distress after a federal judge ruled that Alan Louie was liable for damages during the six months Robinson waited to learn that he had not contracted HIV.

The estate of Rock Hudson paid more than \$5 million to Marc Christian after a jury ruled that Hudson had lied to his one-time lover about his HIV status.

Hill also remains under "an ac-

tive and continuing investigation" by the San Francisco District Attorney's office on possible criminal charges related to bounced checks according to Chief Investigator Dan Addario.

A warrant for Hill's arrest for the bad check charges in San Francisco may be imminent, sources said, but Addario would only say that an arrest warrant was a possibility in the case and declined further comment.

One of the checks in the San Francisco case was paid to a person with AIDS on an extremely fixed income for a week of labor at a Buena Vista Terrace area residence owned by California Democratic Party Chair Art Torres but inhabited by Hill.

Hill also is the subject of a lawsuit filed by former partner Rudolph Isch, DDS, alleging numerous complaints against Hill, including an allegation that he forged Isch's signature to transfer more than \$100,000 out of an account, transferred the funds to a securities account and then cashed in nearly \$300,000 in securities and stocks belonging to Isch and transferred them to a separate checking account. Isch has filed separate litigation against the securities firm for failing to previously close the account at his direction – months before Hill's alleged forgery and alleged theft of funds. ▼



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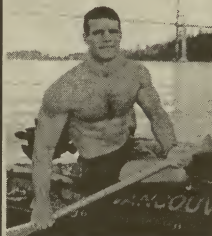
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## HIV Consensus

◀ page 2

gay and bisexual intravenous drug users), the 2.2 percent incidence rate would mean approximately 748 new HIV infections in the city, noted Willi McFarland, an epidemiologist with the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

A note to the reader at the beginning of the draft report notes that issuing a draft document is "a

new process for many of us. However, it is our intention to make this process open, accessible, and remain driven by data, evidence, and a rational scientific process. Public comment is critical."

To access the report on the Internet, go to <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/>. Public comment can be sent via e-mail to [HIVConsensus@dph.sf.ca.us](mailto:HIVConsensus@dph.sf.ca.us), or mailed to the DPH AIDS Office, attn: HIV Consensus, 25 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102. ▼

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## Back to the Reagan years?

**F**irst, the White House AIDS office is closed; then it's open again. Do we detect something "subliminal" here?He hasn't been in office a month and already President George W. Bush has waffled when it comes to AIDS. White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card told *USA Today* in an article published Wednesday that the Office on National AIDS Policy – which former President Clinton created in 1994 – would be "lost to a general restructuring of the White House staff;" that same morning, after a confused scramble, the White House announced that the AIDS office – and an office created by Clinton for race relations – would remain open after all.

"We're concerned about AIDS inside our White House, make no mistake about it," Bush told reporters Wednesday morning after a South Lawn ceremony on tax cuts. In typical fashion, however, Bush's statement also was confusing. Did he mean that AIDS cases are on the rise inside the White House? Probably not, but that's not how it sounds. Nor do we believe that the Bush administration is all that concerned about the AIDS epidemic in this country or in other countries around the world. During last year's campaign, the issue wasn't even on his radar screen.

The White House confusion came at a time when top doctors and scientists were concluding the eighth annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Chicago. At the conference, several major announcements were made, including a reversal in the "hit it early, hit it hard" approach for patients regarding HIV treatment regimens, and the fact that the HIV infection rate is soaring among young black gay males. Add these developments to the news last month that the HIV incidence rate among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco has

about doubled since 1997 and we have to ask why closing the White House AIDS office was even considered, much less erroneously announced.

We have moved beyond the Reagan years when that president didn't even utter the word AIDS publicly. Today, more than 20 years into the epidemic, safer sex messages have lost their urgency, and young people are somehow missing the HIV prevention messages. Older gay men are tired of the "use a condom every time" mantra and have started slipping dangerously into unprotected sex. And some peo-

ple believe that living with HIV/AIDS isn't that bad. Well, as Jeff Getty said recently on

60 Minutes, there may be advertisements for HIV medication showing healthy looking people climbing mountains, but the reality is that if those are PWAs doing the climbing, there had better be a bathroom on the way up and at the top of the mountain because diarrhea is a major side effect of many HIV medications.

President Bush did the right thing by keeping the national AIDS office, but the sad thing is that eliminating it should never have been an option. ▼

## Editorial



## Hormel Center is here for you

by Jim Mitulski

**I**f you measure the effectiveness of your organization by the vehemence of its opposition, the Hormel Center is doing its job. The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center was established six years ago to be a world class research facility at the San Francisco Public Library devoted to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender literature, history and culture, the only one of its scope and size at a public library. This past week the Traditional Values Coalition (<http://www.traditionalvalues.org>) attacked James C. Hormel for his criticism of John Ashcroft's nomination for U.S. attorney general. The TVC cited Hormel's support for the center which bears his name, and distributed copies to each of the senators of one of our archival holdings, a women's health/women's studies book from the 1970s called *The Cunt Coloring Book* by Tee Corinne. They also issued this statement:"The *Cunt Coloring Book*, is a homosexual coloring book for children that is part of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Reading Center at the San Francisco Public Library. It contains page after page of drawings of female genitalia to color, plus other reading materials that promote incest, and adult/child sex or pedophilia."Imagine our surprise when we went to track down the coloring book in question. It is not out on the shelves within easy reach of children; it is kept in closed stacks and must be requested through the paging system. An examination of the book clearly indicates it is a book prepared by adult women for other adult women, and is a proud legacy of the same women's health movement that brought us important classics like *Our Bodies/Our Selves*. There is nothing obscene about depictions of the female body. Characterizing the coloring book as smutty is really an attack on the beauty and wholesomeness of women's reproductive organs, and is part of a continuum of misogynist discourse of which we will certainly see more during the Bush administration. Already Bush has begun to erode a woman's right to choose by undermining federal funding for abortion counseling.The San Francisco library, like the Library of Congress which also contains this coloring book, upholds the "Library Bill of Rights" promoted by the American Library Association, Article 2 of which reads: Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Material should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval (*Intellectual Freedom Manual*, 4th edition, American Library Association, 1992).

Recently the Friends &amp; Foundation promised to increase financial support for the San Francisco Public Library if it incurs diminished federal funding for refusing to install Internet filters on library computers that would make it impossible for anyone of any age to view material deemed pornographic. Many of these filters consider any mention of words like "gay" or "lesbian" as pornographic. The religious right is gearing up to change the culture of libraries altogether, which threatens the existence of resources like the Hormel Center.

Thank you, James C. Hormel, for speaking the plain truth, forcing Ashcroft to reveal his prejudices. When pressed recently for clarification on his opposition to Hormel's appointment as ambassador to Luxembourg, Ashcroft offered the rationale that it would insult the good people there to have a practicing homosexual because it is the most Catholic country in the world. Does this portend that ambassadors who practice birth control or who have been divorced and remarried can expect not to be appointed during the Bush administration?

Thank you, Senator Feinstein for also expressing the plain truth that an attorney general with such a poor record on human rights cannot be expected to serve the people whose solemn charge it is to protect. Misogyny and homophobia are incompatible with the practice of justice.

There have always been book-banners and book-burners ready to use their religion as a way of justifying their prejudices. The social critic and novelist Sinclair Lewis, while researching *Elmer Gantry*, his searing

critique of religious hypocrisy, chastised religious bigots by saying, "You Christians use Jesus as the hat rack on which to hang all of your prejudices!" The Traditional Values Coalition does not need to bear false witness against the Hormel Center in order to express its political views.

At the Friends &amp; Foundation we are proud to be named after James C. Hormel with his distinguished record of human rights advocacy and public service. We are proud to contain feminist materials from our gay and lesbian liberation movement's past and present and we are committed to continuing the good work that has already been established.

If you haven't been to the Hormel Center in awhile, we invite you to visit our current installation in observance of Black History Month on sexuality, spirituality and race, featuring the work of a distinguished local African American artist, the Reverend Timothy Tyrone Taylor. Look for upcoming programs and author events as well as two exciting exhibitions presented in collaboration with our friends at the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, including "Queer Folk Art" in March and April, followed by "TransART 2001" in May, an amazing display of the richness and complexity of transgender culture. This spring will see the formal completion of the archiving of the Harvey Milk papers, which will then be made available to scholars, including materials not previously available.

The Hormel Center is here for you. Who knows, you may even encounter members of the Traditional Values Coalition "doing research." If you do, greet them warmly and tell them that education is a powerful antidote to bigotry. Education flourishes at the San Francisco Public Library because it is committed to unfettered intellectual inquiry, freedom of expression, and to providing library services to communities like ours. ▼

Jim Mitulski is GLBT outreach coordinator with the James C. Hormel Center and the Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library.



## LETTERS

## Investigation needed

As a gay man who is also an active union member, it is my understanding that sexual orientation and HIV status are irrelevant to performance in the workplace. It is also my understanding that threats of physical violence, whether implicit or explicit, are unacceptable in the workplace. This is the expressed policy of the AFL-CIO.

Thus, I was disappointed when I read about the incident involving Leroy King and Mark Dunlop at the January 23 meeting of the Redevelopment Commission ["Heated debate sparks hate," February 1]. For almost 20 years, I have worked to bring the labor and LGBT movements together on issues of mutual interest. I cannot stand by when the actions of individuals threaten to bring discredit or scandal to that relationship.

I don't hesitate to "call" my queer brothers and sisters on anti-union activities. Similarly, if persons who are intimately involved in the trade union movement speak or act in a homophobic or AIDS-phobic manner, I am conscience-bound to speak out against such actions.

I call upon Mayor Brown and the San Francisco Labor Council to investigate the alleged incident at the commission meeting, and to take appropriate action if it is found to be warranted.

Leroy King has a long and honorable history in San Francisco's labor movement. It is my sincere hope that the alleged incident is the result of a misunderstanding as I know that the labor movement in San Francisco represents the highest values of inclusion and tolerance.

Vince Quackenbush  
San Francisco

## Better uses of commish's time

How surprised I am to learn that certain redevelopment commissioners are now in the business of defining manhood or the strutting pomposity that some of our heterosexuals call manliness.

There are a thousand better uses of Commissioner Leroy King's time, and a gazillion more appropriate settings. A real man would not have uttered such calumny. Shame.

Frederick Hobson  
San Francisco

## Local Names Project board responds

In the February 1 article titled "Names Project moving to Washington, D.C.," the Bay Area Reporter unfortunately makes a number of statements and suggestions that—in our view—do not adequately represent the facts. We, as the board of the Names Project Bay Area Chapter, the local service provider of the AIDS Memorial Quilt for the entire San Francisco Bay Area, feel the urgent need to clarify and correct some of what has been written. We would like to set the record straight.

Here are the facts:

There are two organizations in San Francisco representing the AIDS Memorial Quilt. One is the Names Project Foundation—the national office. The foundation is planning to move its operations. The other organization—the one that actually services our community—is the Names Project Bay Area Chapter. The chapter is legally, operationally, and financially independent from the foundation and is not going to leave San Francisco. It is this local group that facilitates outreach, display, education, panel making, grief support, and viewing and displaying the AIDS Memorial Quilt within the entire Bay Area and has been doing so independently for over five years.

You will continue to be able to view and make panels to the AIDS Memorial Quilt right here in San Francisco. In fact, the Bay Area Chapter is negotiating a lease for a new visitors center in the Castro and will be opening its doors to everyone later this spring.

The move of the Names Project Foundation and even the quilt itself will have only very little impact on the availability of panels for display within the Bay Area. In fact, for years the Bay Area chapter already had to request and receive its quilt inventory for displays from the national office.

None of the individuals interviewed for or quoted in the article have been authorized to speak on behalf of the Bay Area chapter; they are not even active members. If you would like to know more about the local chapter you can reach us by mail at 584 Castro Street, P.M.B. 671, San Francisco, CA 94114 or via e-mail at BAC@aidsquilt.net. However, we do not feel it our obligation to contribute to the public discourse about the future location of the national office.

We, the board of the Names Project Bay Area Chapter, do not condone but condemn any attempt to "kidnap" or in any other way harm, endanger, or threaten the quilt. In fact, no responsible or reasonable person involved with the quilt would ever attempt any such action.

In conclusion, the article—in blurring the distinction between the national office of the Names Project and the local chapter—has been suggesting negative changes for Bay Area residents. We want to make it clear that that is not the case. The move of The Names

Project Foundation, though significant for the national office itself, should not have a dramatic impact on the Bay Area or San Francisco—and especially not on San Francisco's LGBTQ community, people living with HIV/AIDS, or the Castro.

Michael W. Henschel, Rose Hudson,  
Dolores Thompson, and Michael Weaver  
Names Project Bay Area Chapter  
Board of Directors

## Hormel's sterling record

John Ashcroft states that he would uphold the laws of the land regardless of his personal convictions. This recorded homophobe said that he was opposed to Jim Hormel's ambassadorship to Luxembourg, not because he was gay, but because of the "totality of his record." Yeah, sure. Anyone who knows Jim Hormel or looks at his record will find a sterling individual with a record of public service and philanthropy.

Edan Milton Hughes  
San Francisco

## A time to celebrate?

We are writing to express our disappointment at your newspaper's continued participation in the misguided and dangerous dialogue regarding AIDS cases in San Francisco ["San Francisco AIDS cases, deaths continue to decline," January 25]. Although the numbers of AIDS cases and deaths are decreasing, when we take a closer look at the data, we see a picture far more complex and alarming. This is a picture of a changing epidemic, a picture of steady increases in the proportion of AIDS cases among women, African Americans, Latinos, and heterosexual injection drug users (IDUs) in this city over the past decade.

As the article mentions, according to the most recent San Francisco Department of Public Health's quarterly AIDS surveillance report, AIDS cases among women and heterosexual IDUs (male and female) increased from 2.9 and 5.3 percent of all cases, respectively, in 1990 to 10.6 and 18.3 percent of all cases by year-end 2000. You apparently find the numbers among heterosexual IDUs to be "interesting." What is "interesting" about a greater than three-fold increase as a percentage of overall AIDS cases? This would not be tolerated by the primary readership of this paper if it pertained to them.

You also mention the overrepresentation of African Americans and Latinos among people with AIDS. African Americans, who comprise 11 percent of San Francisco's population, currently account for 21 percent of AIDS cases in this city. Latinos account for 13 percent of San Francisco's population but currently account for 16.7 percent of AIDS cases. These disparities are powerfully reflected in and perpetuated by the lack of adequate attention and research specific to African American and Latino communities. At the recent HIV Consensus meeting, there was insufficient data to estimate ethnic specific HIV incidence for men who have sex with men (MSM). According to the recently released draft HIV Consensus Report, "the panel concluded that since the lack of data did not afford the panel comparable data by which to determine incidence estimates by age, race, and ethnicity for MSM and MSM IDU, urgent attention must be paid to this identified gap in the research." It is no mistake that the populations for whom there is insufficient data on HIV incidence are the same populations who continue to be disproportionately affected by AIDS.

By continuing to frame the AIDS epidemic in a manner that does not address up front the call to action that these figures (or lack thereof) demand, these simplified representations contribute to the persistent disparities in who lives and dies with AIDS. These data can no longer be relegated to a mere mention embedded in a rosy overall picture. We have seen the growing proportion of AIDS cases in these communities for 10 years now. Even at this late date, we must ask why.

How can we, as one reader wrote in response to this article, "celebrate in the streets" when we are fully aware that the proportion of AIDS cases and deaths among African Americans, Latinos, women, and heterosexual IDUs are continuing to increase? We can if we are not given a complete picture of AIDS incidence that addresses the different epidemics that are concurrently experienced by different populations in San Francisco. The pre-existing social inequalities that contribute to the increased vulnerability of people of color, women, and heterosexual IDUs with HIV to poorer health outcomes (i.e. disease progression to AIDS and death) are reflected in and perpetuated by your selective representation of the AIDS epidemic.

We ask that you, and your readers, broaden your vision of the AIDS epidemic. We ask that you reflect on your power of representation in framing the epidemic. We ask that you use this power to truly engage in the fight for health—and for life—for the communities facing these disturbing increases in proportion of AIDS cases.

Sonja Mackenzie  
Byron Mason  
San Francisco

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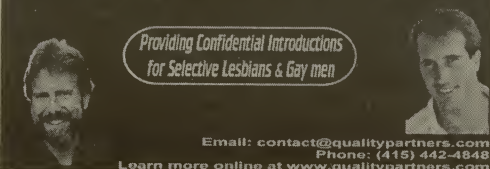
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### Backs turned on California

I find it interesting that Dubya and his team have so quickly and decisively turned their backs on California. Of course, it is rarely mentioned in news articles that the energy deregulation scheme he so criticizes is the product of former Republican Governor Pete Wilson. A few other rarely mentioned items: California voted overwhelmingly for Al Gore - yes, we were in the majority - and Bush figures we can go blow; Gray Davis may run for president, and Bush will do nothing that will help him look good; the current energy crisis is raking in big profits for Enron and many other Bush-Cheney cronies in the Texas energy industry.

The saddest fact is that Bush is willing to sacrifice the California economy, and yes, the national economy, all in the name of politics and profits. The rolling blackouts alone are already taking their toll on the technology industries of Silicon Valley, and the price of a state or federal bailout is far less than the hammering the economy will take if business can't function due to lack of energy. Bush's answer? Build more power plants. This guy has an amazing ability to answer a short-term crisis with a long-term "solution" that solves nothing. I won't even begin to outline the negative effects in productivity, dollars, and health care costs that a severe natural gas shortage would inflict on Californians and the rest of the West.

If Bush thinks that the crisis will stop here and that he has no political price to pay, the president should think again. If I were one of the many deep pockets of Silicon Valley who lined his campaign coffers, I'd be screaming bloody murder. I sure hope they get some bang for their bucks, as it may be our only hope. Mr. Bush would be wise to remember that he ignores California, the steam engine of the new economy, at his peril. A "uniter not a divider?" Indeed.

Scott Trammell Moore  
San Francisco

### Bush positives

I quite enjoyed Dale Carpenter's analysis of some positive things Bush could do, by omission or commission, for gays and lesbians ("An index of leading Bush indicators," *Outright*, January 25).

But I'd like to add to that list some of Bush's centerpiece proposals. As an advocate of same-sex marriage, I am well aware that the benefits we seek are a essentially a desire for our relationships to enjoy the same relief from taxation which is accorded to married heterosexuals. For example, while Social Security is a bad deal for almost everyone, it is particularly and deliberately biased toward those partnerships which are properly "sanctioned" by the government, and therefore biased against same-sex partnerships. Bush proposes privatization of social security - a step which cannot help but improve the lot of millions of gays and lesbians, making the difference for some between retiring in poverty, and retiring with dignity.

For another example, the estate tax penalizes those of us whose partnerships are not "sanctioned by the government"; the bias is again quite deliberate. If the estate tax were repealed, we would be free to give all of our property to the beneficiary whom we choose; if we really want the treasury to have a cut, we would still be free to mention them in our wills; but that would be our choice, not theirs.

Terry McIntyre  
Wilkins Township, Pennsylvania

### Homophobia at the YMCA?

I wish to alert our community about the hypocrisy, homophobia, and generally questionable operating practices by the Central YMCA on Golden Gate Avenue. My partner was given the boot recently by this YMCA branch on the most flimsy and questionable of unsubstantiated accusations. We all know this can happen, but did you know how outrageous the policy really is?

First off, they use a wide-open term called "inappropriate behavior" for any reason they arbitrarily choose. Then, when confronted, the person is immediately booted for life, without explanation of reason and with absolutely no corroborating proof. No second chance. No special circumstances whatsoever. And then to add insult to injury, they continue billing the ejected person through the next month. Maybe I've just been living in this city too long, but does this strike anyone else out there as unfair, fascist, or just a tad bit overboard?

I wrote letters to the management of this facility, and tried my best to reason with them because of a couple of things they did not take into consideration upon the ejection of my partner. It was like talking to a brick wall. They heard nothing I said, and completely sidetracked the subject by asking if everything was okay for me. After this incident, my opinion of this YMCA went way down.

But folks, that's not necessarily the main issue here. No, I am concerned with the questionable practices and guidelines this organization follows, concerning member relations. What I speak of concerns a flyer the Central YMCA mailed to its former members late in 2000. It welcomed back all former members at no

joining fee until January 31, 2001. One was sent to my partner, and he at first just tossed it aside. Then, late in December (during the holidays) he decided to go back and work out. So, when he responded to their solicitation and went down, sat, and started filling out paperwork, they yanked the paperwork abruptly from his hands and in degrading, demeaning fashion they told him he could never return to the YMCA. That was it for me. And because I didn't quit at the right time, they told me I would have to pay for the next full month, even if I never set foot in the facility. They were completely unyielding. Even when I am on a fixed income.

They may be a nonprofit Christian-based organization, and the laws may be substantially different for them than ordinary for-profit businesses. However, their behavior strikes me as outrageous, draconian, demeaning, and hypocritical beyond belief. Several of those on the staff are gay and bisexual men themselves. If everyone in the facility who had actually acted inappropriately at one time or another were gone, it would be a very lonely place indeed. The management seems to be in a deep sense of denial over this fact. By and large though, the general membership is a very controlled, and well behaved group. There are many close friendships which span many years at the Y, and it is very much a family atmosphere. I don't know if the membership truly knows how little the Central YMCA front office really seems to respect a great deal of its membership.

I'm not expecting them to change their attitude any time soon. After all, they've been operating in the vestiges of institutionalized homophobia for a long time. But they have a lot to learn about dealing with situations and people in a caring, honest, judicious way. I urge those out there who feel as outraged as I do by this behavior to call or write to them and tell them how you feel about this, and demand a YMCA that is as responsive and caring about our community, as it is toward the greater community at large.

Robert M. Connett  
San Francisco

### Nothing positive about ad

I'd like to comment on the advertisement for Zerit, a Bristol-Myers Squibb combination therapy HIV drug, appearing in the *Bay Area Reporter* and on bus shelters around town. The headline reads, "Zerit ... I gotta believe it can work for me. I'm positive." The words, "I'm positive" stand out in larger bold letters. I find this double entendre flippant and offensive.

Whether the slogan refers to a positive attitude or a certainty that the drug will work is not the point. In either case it turns someone's struggle to stay healthy into a snappy turn-of-phrase to sell a product. Can you imagine using a blind person in an ad with the copy "I can't see why you wouldn't use this product?"

And while I don't dispute that keeping a positive attitude can be a key factor in staying healthy, I do dispute the interpretation that there is a certainty this drug will work. Writers such as Jeff Getty have repeatedly made that point.

When I read articles similar to Getty's, I'm humbled by the thought of the millions of individual battle stories of people fighting HIV and those who have already passed. The Zerit advertising slogan diminishes these struggles to mere cleverness.

If you feel as I do, you can call Bristol-Myers Squibb customer relations at 1-800-332-2056, ext. 1 and let them know.

Rich Iremonger  
San Francisco

### Reaching out

The community response to the new Breast Cancer Emergency Fund and to our first awards dinner touched our hearts greatly. We thank all who worked so hard to make it such a great success, including all those who donated or attended. We raised over \$12,000 for BCEF and have applied for a grant from Faith Fancher's foundation. We hope to be funded for \$10,000.

Major support came from the Imperial Court, Gary Virginia, the Castro Lions, and "Mama's Boys." Our special thanks to our dinner committee members: Ray Tilton, producer; Daddy Alan Selby; and AEF board member Glennon Sutter. Community Thrift has set up BCEF for donations so you can designate BCEF now (or AEF, of course) for your donated items. If you would like to make a contribution to BCEF directly, send checks to Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, 1540 Market Street, Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102.

"Mama" Sandy Reinhardt  
"Daddy" Peter Fiske  
San Francisco

Send letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, or e-mail to [BARpaper@aol.com](mailto:BARpaper@aol.com). Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. Unsigned letters will not be printed.



## POLITICS

# George W. Bush's early moves to GOP right

by Wayne Friday

Maybe I should preface this by promising that I will not spend the next four years ragging on President George W. Bush, but I am going to point out that Bush—both during his long campaign and in his inaugural speech promised—repeatedly that he would be a president who is “a uniter, not a divider.”

Bush, upon assuming the presidency last month, promised first and foremost to end the “bitter partisanship” of recent years that he said had marked the two terms of his Democratic predecessor. Two days after taking office and on the very first weekday of his administration, Bush wasted little time in drawing the battle lines over abortion rights, one of the country's most contentious issues. The new president quickly made one of his political payoffs to the Republican right by announcing, in his first official presidential act, that he would bar federal aid to international family planning groups that provide abortion counseling or work for abortion rights in foreign countries, thereby quickly overturning action taken by former President Bill Clinton early in his first term.

Bush's reversal of the international family planning funding, first imposed by Ronald Reagan and continued by George Bush the elder, says that recipients of American aid cannot even talk about abortion issues, much less provide abortions even if they used other resources for the abortion counseling or service. It was an easy move by the newly-installed president to again come out strongly against a woman's right to choose only two days after taking office; that Monday was in fact the very day that thousands of abortion opponents were in Washington for their annual protest of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision of 28 years ago that legalized abortion. Bush appeared only too anxious to send a message of support to the rally, saying that he and the protesters share the same goals; Bush pointedly shied away from the subject during the long campaign.

To make it even clearer that he was bowing to the Bauer-Schlaflly-Helms wing of his party, Bush nominated Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, an ardent foe of abortion, to run the Health and Human Services Department. Upon confirmation to his new post, one of Thompson's first announcements was that he would immediately order another review of the safety of the abortion drug RU-486, which won federal approval last September after more than a decade of political and scientific debate.

Although candidate Bush soft-pedaled the abortion issue throughout the campaign and despite the fact that the new first lady, Laura Bush, said recently that she feels *Roe v. Wade* should not be overturned, Bush's actions show that the new administration will be working hard to eventually outlaw abortion rights in this country.

Though opinion polls continue to show that the American public overwhelmingly supports a woman's right to an abortion, the

fact that Bush—and his new HHS secretary—has jumped so quickly into the deeply partisan debate over this issue bodes poorly for the reproductive rights of women both here and abroad.

Then, there's the president's appointment of the anti-gay, pro-life, adamantly religious John Ashcroft to head one of the most important departments in the federal government, the Department of Justice. While there is some good news in the fact that Democrats were able to send the president a message by casting 42 votes against Ashcroft's confirmation as attorney general, as New York Senator Charles Schumer put it: “The divisiveness that accompanied the Ashcroft nomination will look small compared to what will occur if and when Mr. Bush nominates someone of Ashcroft's beliefs to the U.S. Supreme Court.” The point cannot

be ignored that, again, Bush appeased his party's far right wing by appointing the very person religious conservatives demanded. The only light at the end of that tunnel was that while eight Democrats voted with Senate Republicans on Ashcroft, Democrats still received one more vote against the nomination than needed had they decided to maintain a filibuster, clearly showing that they have the power, if necessary, to block far right choices to the federal bench or the Supreme Court.

In fact, no other attorney general has every been confirmed by such a narrow margin, and the weeks of Senate acrimony, underscoring partisan division, signaled trouble ahead for expected conservative appointments, particularly judicial nominees.

Incidentally, it was hardly a coincidence that only hours after the close confirmation vote, Ashcroft chose Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, one of the court's most conservative members and a person who faced a bruising confirmation battle himself in 1991, to administer the oath of office.

A political honeymoon in Washington? It will take a lot more than hugging Democratic congressional members, giving them silly nicknames, or inviting Senator Ted Kennedy to the White House for a movie to keep this “compassionate conservative” game moving. Appointing people like Ashcroft as attorney general and bringing the hammer down on abortion says more as to what Bush is really all about. Bush has four years (very long years, I'm afraid) to show the majority of American voters who voted for Al Gore that they might have been wrong. John Ashcroft is hardly the way to start. Thanks go to both California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer for standing up for what is right—they voted loud and clear against Ashcroft.

## Politics and people

One of the California Democratic Party's good guys, state chair Art Torres (my neighbor, incidentally) made it pretty clear at the weekend meeting of the Democratic National Committee in

Washington, D.C. when he told those eight Democratic senators who voted for Ashcroft that they would be wasting their time coming to California to raise re-election funds (a hint to Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, in particular); the 42 votes against confirmation of Ashcroft included every Democratic senator up for re-election in 2002.

San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden, the chair of the Assembly's powerful Appropriations Committee and one of that body's most respected members, likely will emerge as the leading candidate to replace Board of Equalization member Johan Klehs (D-1st District) when he is termed out next year.

The state Board of Equalization consists of four elected members plus the state controller. Each of the four elect-

ed members represent roughly 8 million people and the First District covers most of Northern California (including the Bay Area) reaching down to Monterey. Two of the four current elected members are Democrats; two are Republican. The powerful BOE collects more than \$30 billion in taxes for state and local government, sets the property rate tax for all of the state's utilities including PG&E and Southern California Edison, and for the pipelines, flumes, canal, aqueducts, and telephone lines. Migden, who will herself be termed out of the Assembly in 2002, has built up plenty of political credibility and is being urged by many to seek the seat; others will surely announce as well but Migden is thought to be the early favorite if she decides to make the race. Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she is “considering” the race, but has made no decision. The B.A.R. has learned that she already has pledged support from a number of influential Democrats if she seeks the BOE seat.

Incidentally, capital leaders in Sacramento are already saying that the new mayor of that city, Heather Fargo, a moderate Democrat, is one to watch for higher office.

And did anyone think that Bill Clinton will go quietly from Washington Democratic party politics? Never. Clinton's hand-picked candidate, Terry McAuliffe, was unanimously chosen as the new chair of the Democratic National Committee when Dems met in D.C. over the weekend, all but guaranteeing that Clinton will play an influential role in his party's politics for years to come. Reportedly, there was talk among national Democrats meeting in the capital about George W. Bush's next opponent—heard there was plenty of talk about a Gore-Clinton (as in Hillary) ticket, but I'd place early money that Massachusetts Senator John Kerry becomes an active candidate for 2004 before Al Gore announces (now, a Kerry-Clinton ticket would be interesting).

And what's up with all the criticism about Kimiko Burton, the new public defender, wanting her

page 10 ►

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# Talking about the 'T' word

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

If you've read this column before, then you've certainly spotted my use of the "T" word. Transgender, that is.

I'm quite fond of it. I find it an easy shorthand, certainly a lot quicker than typing out "anyone who transcends the gender they were assigned at birth, and forges their own gender identity." That's how I define the word. Others prefer definitions that, while not exactly the same, are variations on that theme.

It's also a lot easier to just use the old "T" word than trying to sit down and list every possible gender manifestation one can come up with, in the hope that you won't leave any one person out. I've had to write a few conglomerations of all those identities over time, going from more common terms like "crossdresser" and "transsexual," through "drag king" and "she-male," and ending up somewhere around "Anabe" and "Hijra."

Let's face it — we are human, and we like quick, easy classifications. It simplifies our lives, and makes it easier to quickly explain a concept.

And that is where the real trouble begins.

I mentioned how there is a laundry list of definitions that fall under the umbrella term of transgender, did I not? This is one of the first problems. It can sometimes be hard to really convey what is meant in the space of a single word.

When one says they are transgendered, do they mean "crossdresser?" Do they mean "transsexual?" Or do they mean any of the other self-identities falling under the transgendered umbrella? This can be a challenge, say, if you met someone like myself who self-identifies with the "T" word, and made an assumption that all transgendered folks are like me. You could be sorely disappointed to find that my own self-identity is only a small part of the overall transgendered world.

Not only that, but not everyone agrees as to just how broad the term is. Some would say that the term really only applies to those who live in a gender opposite of the one they were assigned at birth, but opt to avoid surgical procedures. Others would say that it covers not only that, but also crossdressers and transvestites — but not transsexuals. Some reverse that, and equate transgendered



with transsexual, but not other forms of gender expression. You may even end up with someone like me, who believes in a very broad definition of transgender.

How broad does my definition go? Not only do I include TS, TV, CD and all the other standard acronyms, but I also include just about any other form of gender-transcendence.

I have even gone so far as to include gay and lesbian orientations. After all, society not only considers someone to be "unmanly" when they put on a dress and

makeup, but also when they choose another man as a bed partner.

Now before you fire up the computer and start sending me terse notes, do note that I'm not going to ask you to identify as transgendered. Just because my own view is vast doesn't mean that I'm going to start making broad assumptions about your own self-identity. I wouldn't expect you to change your identity any more than I would expect you to change mine. But there may be something to exploring a broad slate of transgendered actions.

This brings up another thing that muddies the water. If an action can be considered transgendered — for example, wearing a three piece suit, or sleeping with people of the same anatomical sex — then why not identify the people practicing those behaviors as transgendered? Or is it only about actions, rather than identity?

I don't have a clear answer. I do know that many of my own actions could be classified as transgendered, but I also choose to use that term to identify myself. In fact, I opt to use it more than any other term that could be applied to my own travels down this gendered path I'm on. Like I said before, it's a handy shorthand. It

only becomes difficult when you go beyond a single person, and use it to identify a group of people.

Why does it really matter what term is used, or how? Consider that many community groups and events have now added the "T" to their name, and list themselves as transgender-friendly. But without a clear idea of what transgender means, doesn't it make it rather difficult to be truly welcoming to the transgendered?

I've seen this happen, having witnessed more than one organization out there add the "T" to their name, without a true understanding of just who they are now representing. For that matter, I've seen some transgender organizations use the word without fully considering who they are including when they use it.

Don't get me wrong, I would much rather see the term used than see it tossed away, or otherwise buried under some sort of vague language. But I prefer to see it used with an understanding of what it means.

And that is where I give you this week's homework assignment. Assuming you have access to the World Wide Web (which, I suspect, is a large part of my audience), poke around for a couple minutes and see just what transgender can mean. Of course, you can start with some of the projects I've been a part of, like Gay.com and Gender.org, or set off on your own by typing "transgender" into one of those handy search engines out there. It'll be both fun and educational. I promise!

After all, you can trust me. I'm transgendered. ▼

**Gwen Smith isn't always sure how all those transgender identity terms decode, either. She can be found on the web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).**

## Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

own choice as her top aide? That's what politics is all about, isn't it? And since when does the boss need her/his second-in-command gunning for the job? Burton is a fine lawyer, a nice person, and will make a good public defender. Mayor **Willie Brown** made a wise decision in her appointment.

Last year's state Senate race in the East Bay's 7th District where Democrat **Tom Torlakson** unseated GOP incumbent **Richard Rainey** set a record for money

spent in a California state Senate race; a total of \$6.39 million was spent. Rainey became the only Senate incumbent seeking re-election who lost last November.

And speaking of big money, the Republicans better have big bucks if they plan to take on Governor **Gray Davis** next year; in the final six months of 2000 Davis raised \$5.8 million, bringing his banked re-election funds to a whopping \$14.2 million.

Meanwhile, Davis continues to feel the heat over the current power crisis; suddenly the man who is sometimes mentioned as a 2004 presidential contender finds

himself in political trouble. A recent poll showed that the governor is indeed paying a price for what he calls the deregulation "nightmare," more than 60 percent of California voters say they are disappointed over Davis's handling of the current crisis and his overall approval rating is also slipping.

Ah, **Ralph Nader** and his Greenies; it seems Nader's former Democratic Party allies, bitterly angered by his role in helping George W. Bush become president, have now given the back of their hands to the man who once

page 17 ►



## COMMENTARY

# Educating gays

by Dale Carpenter

One of my enduring hopes is to find an issue about which the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is right. But life, being a vale of tears, has confounded me. So it is that NGLTF has reacted to President Bush's proposals on education with error not matched since the group declared its solemn opposition to the Gulf War 10 years ago.

Bush's education reform package includes two features designed to give parents greater ability to send their children to private schools rather than keeping them in failing, violence-ridden public schools.

One part of the package would give families vouchers in the form of coupons or checks to pay for attendance at private schools (or better public schools). Similar vouchers are now available in heavily Democratic cities like Cleveland and Milwaukee.

The other part of the reform package would allow parents a tax deduction of up to \$5,000 per year to pay the educational expenses of each of their children attending private elementary or secondary schools. Tax deductions for private schooling are now available in four states, including liberal-leaning Minnesota.

The basic idea behind these school-choice measures is simple. First, parents concerned about the quality of their children's education should have greater opportunity to send their kids elsewhere. Second, because more parents will have more choice, schools will have to compete for students and for the dollars those students bring. Competition, the theory goes, brings excellence.

The jury is out on whether the theory meets the reality, in part because the few school-choice experiments out there have been small-scale. One concern is that vouchers and tax credits will drain money and the best students away from the poorest school districts, making them even worse.

A second concern is that such experiments violate the principle of separation of church and state. Many parents, after all, will undoubtedly choose to use voucher money or tax deductions to send their children to private religious schools.

While the first concern about the effect on public schools might be valid, I am mystified by the second concern. How can it violate the Constitution to let parents use their own money to send their own children to schools of their own choice? We might as well say it offends the First Amendment to let people drive to Sunday wor-

ship service on public roads or with government-subsidized ethanol in their gas tanks.

Least compelling are the gay-related concerns about school choice expressed in a recent press release from NGLTF. "Funneling public tax dollars to private schools," the press release begins, "poses risks to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students and teachers as well as the children of GLBT parents." Bush's proposal, the statement hyperventilates, "threatens the safety" of gay students and gay parents and endangers the "job security" of gay teachers.

NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo points out that vouchers will often be used to send children to religious schools that are free to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. "Will the libraries in religious voucher schools include books that reflect the reality of GLBT people?" she asks (as if public school libraries currently do).

many public school districts and administrators who ignore anti-gay abuse are immune (or nearly immune) from lawsuits. A religious school that teaches the primacy of traditional marriage but that at least guarantees the physical safety of a gay child is surely preferable to a public school where the same child is beaten on her way to the school library to peruse *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

Private schools are accountable to a force far more pervasive than government in a free society: the marketplace. Gay parents are free to withdraw their children from schools that aren't sufficiently tolerant. Parents of children being threatened for suspected homosexuality can take their children and their money elsewhere. Schools will have to compete for the best teachers by giving them better salaries and hiring them regardless of sexual orientation.

The market for private education will respond to the preferences of tolerance-minded parents by providing venues, religious or not, more hospitable to gay

**Public schools have not exactly been havens of tolerance and understanding for gay folks. Most public schools, even in large cities like Houston, do not forbid discrimination against gay students or openly gay teachers. Vicious taunting and teasing of kids thought to be gay are common in public schools.**

Toledo argues that "public schools are accountable to the public, to parents, to elected school boards and ultimately to the U.S. Constitution," whereas private schools are not.

Just what has all this public accountability gotten us? It's true that many private schools, including sectarian ones, might not be great places for gay students, teachers, and parents. But one must always ask, compared to what?

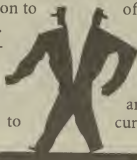
Public schools have not exactly been havens of tolerance and understanding for gay folks. Most public schools, even in large cities like Houston, do not forbid discrimination against gay students or openly gay teachers. Vicious taunting and teasing of kids thought to be gay are common in public schools. Worse, gay youths are often pushed, hit, and spat upon.

Unlike private institutions,

concerns. Parents may even take their voucher money and start high schools for gay teens like those that already exist in Dallas and New York.

It's no accident that private business has been far ahead of national, state, and local governments in barring discrimination against gays and in offering health and other benefits to gay couples. The market doesn't care much about sectarian morality. It cares about money, and money knows no sexual orientation. The freer market for education that Bush proposes would likely provide a happier and safer environment for gay youth, teachers, and parents. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com).



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# Tired of 'all those faggots'

by Jane Warner

**S**outh China Cafe, 4133 18th Street, January 30, 7:40 p.m.: While inside the restaurant, a man went to use the restroom only to find another man blocking the doorway. When he asked him to move, the man became angry, called him a faggot, and then charged him with a cane. The man defended himself by punching the cane swinger in the face and kicking him in the groin. The beaten suspect exited the cafe, but stood on the sidewalk yelling, "Fuck you faggot," banging his cane on the restaurant window. Police arrived and detained the 30-year-old suspect who claimed he was attacked by the other man in the bathroom because he *wasn't* gay. "I'm tired of all these faggots," the man told police, "and worst of all, they send out gay cops." Both men declined to press charges, were admonished, and sent on their way.

## Aid and abet

Market and Duboce, January 30, 10 p.m.: A man approached two men on the street, one of whom was pushing a bicycle, and asked if they would buy him a sandwich. The men told him they would and agreed to walk together to Safeway. While walking, the stranger asked if the ring one of the men was wearing was real. The man told him it was and handed it to the man to look at. The stranger took the 14 karat

gold ring and then, without warning, grabbed the \$300 bicycle out of the man's hands. The suspect ignored the men's screams and rode east-bound on Market. The men called 911 and officers arrived a shot time later to take a report. As the victims were talking to the officers, the suspect rode by on the stolen bicycle. The victims excitedly pointed in his direction yelling, "There he goes!" Officers gave chase and caught up to him at 18th and Church, taking him



into custody without incident. Found in his possession was a bag of marijuana and a white crack rock wrapped in cellophane. The 28-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for strong armed robbery and possession of narcotics.

## Civics 101

Eureka Valley playground, January 30, noon: While on routine patrol, a police officer saw a man down in the sand near the swing set area of the playground. Fear-

ing something may be wrong, the officer went over to check on the man's well being, but found he was only sleeping. As she asked the man for his identification, about 20 first graders from Live Oak School entered the playground with their teacher for recess. In front of the stunned school children the man became angry and told the officer, "Fuck you! I don't have to tell you shit. Just because I'm a drug dealer you cops always harass me." The man stood up, clenched his fists, and took a fighting stance a few feet from the children. The officer quickly placed the man in handcuffs for the safety of the first

graders and called for back up. A computer check revealed the suspect had a \$5,000 warrant for his arrest and he was taken to Mission Station for booking. Seeing that the children were visibly shaken by the experience, the officer escorted them back to their classroom and held a lengthy discussion about what they had seen and described the more positive aspects of police work. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

# PULSE program to host Mardi Gras dance party in Guerneville

by Katie Szymanski

**T**hose who can't make it to New Orleans this year will be pleased to know that PULSE, Sonoma County's HIV prevention program, is offering Mardi Gras activities next weekend that rival any party on Bourbon Street.

On Saturday, February 17, PULSE will be the beneficiary of "Carnivale of Crowns," a Mardi

Gras dance sponsored by Club FAB, at 16135 Main Street in Guerneville. The event, for people 21 and over, features most of the trappings of the South's biggest holiday, plus go-go dancers, the music of DJ Blackstone from Club Faith and the End Up, and a costume contest with \$500 in prizes.

As an added bonus, one lucky winner of the Carnivale of Crowns raffle will win a trip for two to Los Angeles to see a live

taping of the NBC favorite, *Will & Grace*. The trip includes airfare, two nights at the Hilton, and dinner at the Beverly Hills restaurant Spago. Other prize packages include a bed and breakfast stay and tickets to the local symphony.

PULSE is part of the prevention arm of Face to Face, a volunteer-based nonprofit organization serving people with AIDS, disabling HIV disease, and their loved ones since 1985. Sonoma County has the highest per capita

incidence rate of HIV infection of any rural/suburban county in the United States, and the PULSE program is targeted toward gay men 18-30 years old.

Tickets to Carnivale are \$10 at the door of Club FAB, and raffle tickets can be purchased in San Francisco at All American Boy in the Castro, in Guerneville at Up the River, or in Santa Rosa at Face to Face. For more information, call (707) 544-1581, or visit [www.pulseprogram.org](http://www.pulseprogram.org). ▼

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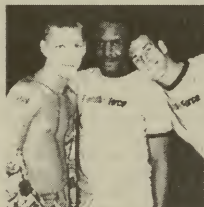


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Presented by Positive Force, a program by and for all HIV+ gay and bi men.



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**Tuesday • Feb 13 • 7:30pm**  
Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy  
4235 19th St. @ Collingwood



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From left, Assemblyman Paul Koretz, Assemblywoman Carole Migden, state Senator Sheila Kuehl, and Assemblywomen Christine Kehoe and Jackie Goldberg at CAPE's first reception in the capital last week.

# CAPE reception highlights lesbian legislators, new bills

by Dan Aiello

More than 150 people joined nearly a dozen legislators at the California Alliance for Pride and Equality's first capital reception at the historic Senator Hotel in downtown Sacramento last week following a forced delay and relocation by the January 16 truck attack on the state Capitol and California's ongoing energy crisis.

The delay, though inconvenient, was a far cry from what might have happened had the event been held just one night earlier than the original January 17 date in the Capitol Rotunda, just yards away from where a mentally unstable Temecula man rammed his big rig into the west portico of the historic structure. The reception was delayed again when a series of late-night legislative sessions were scheduled to deal with California's continuing power crisis. Finally, despite the delays and relocation, CAPE's inaugural reception, intended to introduce California's four lesbian legislators as well as state representatives friendly to LGBT issues, was successful.

The two new lesbian Assembly members, Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego) and Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), joined Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), and state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) to commemorate the first time in the state's history that the LGBT community has had four open lesbian legislators.

Joining the four in attendance were several more legislators supportive of LGBT issues including state Senators John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose) and Jack Scott (D-Pasadena), and Assemblymen John Longville (D-San Bernardino), Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), Kevin Shelley (D-San Francisco), and Paul Koretz (D-LA/West Hollywood).

## Kehoe's crash course

Kehoe, already catapulted to a leadership position as assistant speaker pro tem, "is doing an unbelievable job," said Migden. Goldberg agreed. "She never

missed a beat," she said, speaking of Kehoe's first time at the Assembly podium. "It's like she's been doing it her whole life."

Kehoe's near-instant visibility is no accident. Her district and San Diego County are considered conservative and Democrats are determined to retain the hard-fought seat. It's no small feat that a Democrat, let alone a lesbian, could win in one of the state's most conservative regions, a testament to Kehoe's political astuteness. To win, she had to make great efforts not to be pigeonholed by her opponents as solely a LGBT-issue candidate, something she quickly learned as a San Diego City Council member.

Kehoe currently is involved in resolving the state's electrical crisis. She supports Governor Gray Davis's plan to have the state purchase power now and "hopes the resolution equates to no electric rate increases" for her San Diego Gas and Electric Company constituents. Because of the energy crisis, Kehoe and her staff have been swamped since she moved to Sacramento. "I've had a crash course in Assembly procedures," Kehoe quipped.

Still, Kehoe has had an opportunity to explore Sacramento's historic downtown where she now resides during the week. "I love it here," she said. "My partner and I have had a chance to enjoy some of the restaurants and since I live near the Capitol I try and walk through the [Capitol] park every morning." Kehoe's longtime partner maintains the couple's home in San Diego.

Kehoe also responded to lingering criticism that because she was campaigning - first for Congress and then for Assembly - she did not speak out more vociferously against the Boy Scouts' land lease in San Diego's Balboa Park, where the organization currently is trying to renew their subsidized lease on five acres of public land adjacent to the city's zoo. She denied the campaigns silenced her on the issue. "During most of my time on the City Council the Boy Scouts case was in the courts," she explained. Kehoe said that since the Supreme Court has now determined that the Boy Scouts are

a private, religious organization she believes, "that definition leaves them diametrically opposed to legal access to public land," and hopes that the definition will prevent a lease renewal. She did miss a vote on the lease renewal, but explained that "they tried to run it through because I was absent."

One of Kehoe's successes as a San Diego City Council member was her effort to secure funding for the construction of San Diego's gay and lesbian in-house drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, Stepping Stone. Kehoe and county Supervisor Ron Roberts worked with Stepping Stone staff to combine Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS funds with community development block grants to build the \$2.6 million, 39-bed facility. "Cheryl Houk and their staff deserve a lot of the credit," said Kehoe. But she said that as a member of the Assembly Housing Committee she plans to find ways to promote similar projects statewide. "That's what we're going to be doing on the housing committee," she said.

As for L.A.'s Goldberg, she said that if it wasn't for Kuehl, she wouldn't be in Sacramento. Having finished her term on the Los Angeles City Council, Goldberg planned to return to teaching, her vocation. But Kuehl insisted Goldberg run for the seat, vacated by LGBT friend Antonio Villaraigosa because of term limits. "She [Kuehl] can be very persuasive," joked Goldberg.

Kuehl has moved to the state Senate, a victim of term limits. Many feel that because Kuehl was so well respected by fellow legislators she would've been Assembly speaker this year had she been able to remain. Term limits present the LGBT community with the difficult task of generating new gay and lesbian candidates to maintain its hard fought presence in state politics.

## New bills

Assembly Bill 25 (Migden), which would increase domestic partner rights while limiting the number of heterosexual couples who could qualify for domestic partnership, was the highlighted

page 18 ►



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# Saying 'I don't'

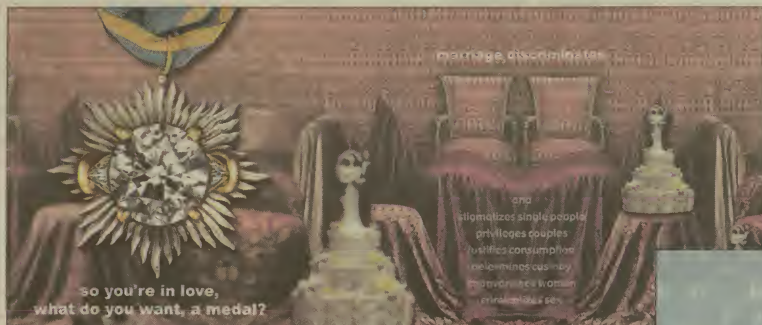
Artist-activist collective targets the institution of marriage

by Katie Szymanski

Fine, so we threw millions behind the campaign to preserve our right to marry, but have we stopped and examined why we're fighting for an institution that benefits the right wing? Think Again, the bi-coastal artist-activist collective based in San Francisco and Boston, is betting against it, launching a creative protest of the inherently discriminatory institution guaranteed to draw both cheers and jeers.

Beginning this Monday, February 12, the group's "Popping the Question" campaign will use a series of traveling billboards to ask the public, "Why do the elderly and low-income families often lose vital benefits if they legally marry? Who profits from the wedding industry and who is victimized by it? How are singles penalized by preferences offered to married couples? Why are domestic partners left out of what constitutes a family?" and other thought-provoking inquiries.

A 24 foot truck with billboards on three sides will circulate throughout the city, hitting all types of families where they dwell and reminding people that although the average person leads most of their life unmarried, the institution of marriage is still the primary way the state grants economic benefits and legal rights. Despite these facts, according to Think Again, "the media continues to interrogate single par-



Traveling anti-marriage billboards coming to a neighborhood near you starting this Monday.

ents, chastise unwed teens, and question whether gays and lesbians should marry."

Popping the Question began as an idea around the time that California saw the right-wing Proposition 22, the Knight initiative, grace the ballot, which defined marriage as valid only when between a man and a woman. Queers didn't relish in the simplicity of the language that would have allowed a transgender debate, nor did they discuss the disadvantages of marriage before jumping into the fight, a fact that Think Again's D. Attyah finds disturbing.

"Yet again, the right had bullied us into the issues we took on," said Attyah. "All of a sudden we became focused on marriage because the right decided that's what needed to be protected, and part of this pro-

ject is to ask if queers really want to be married. We need to think about what the institution does to us as a regulatory thing. Amidst all this talk about getting the state out of my bedroom now I want a license for my lover?"

"Gay marriage really serves the needs of the right wing," Attyah added, "by making us disappear from public and relegating us to our homes."

It's also no coincidence, Attyah believes, that the major spokespersons for gay marriage are usually very mainstream in appearance and relatively privileged.

"We know that people already in positions of privilege can benefit from marriage, but are we asking if those without privilege will benefit?" Attyah wondered. "There's a lot of class issues involved. Di-

voice is still the primary way that women fall below the poverty line, for instance. So when we render the issue as a gay issue or personal choice we obscure the social economic issues."

The billboards, like most of Think Again's work, may start from a queer center, but they branch out to other populations affected by the issue. Therefore, the truck will not only focus on gay marriage but connect the issues of women, singles, and laborers, asking people who patronize companies that use sweatshops, "who manufacturers the day you've always dreamed of?" and telling so-called mainstream feminists, "you demand laws off your body but cherish a license on your lover."

"We really tried to craft the billboards so there's an entry point for everybody," said Attyah. "And once you're in we hope you stay long enough to see the relevance to all communities."

The billboard truck takes off for the streets on Monday and plans call for it to be driven through different neighborhoods through Friday, February 16, in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Attyah himself will be behind the wheel for some shifts, as will

S.A. Bachman, the Boston-based co-founder of the group, who will also usher in the truck for that city's Pride Parade in June. The duo do not expect to have an easy time with their campaign, as many lefties do not like to take a public stand against marriage.

"It's been very hard," Attyah acknowledged. "With most issues there's a clear mark of what is right-wing and what is left, but



when you take on an issue like marriage it's a little ambiguous. But it's a project that engages people in a dialogue that is not included in mainstream media, and it's important to ask these questions and give people ways to participate."

Think Again was founded in 1997 and the group's work is included in the "Sex, Lies and Stereotypes" and "No Human Is Illegal," exhibitions, and has been published in the book *Economic Apartheid in America*, and reproduced in various journals and newspapers including *Ms. magazine*, *Teen Voices*, and the *Boston Globe*. Its messages are rooted in progressive political themes, from racism and gender inequality, to economic injustice and queer rights, and all of its artwork is distributed at no cost. For more information, visit the group's Web site at [www.agitart.org](http://www.agitart.org). And if you're on the streets this week be sure to look for the traveling social messages that just may give you some food for thought. ▼

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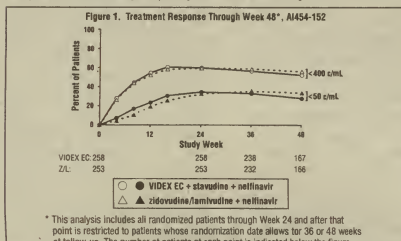
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VIDEX EC (didanosine) in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation. (See Clinical Studies, PRECAUTIONS: Frequency of Dosing, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

There are limited data to date to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen of didanosine.

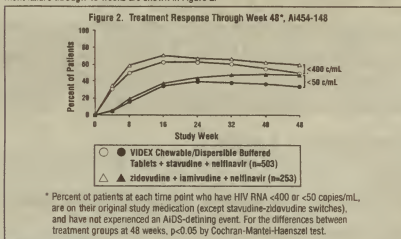
**Clinical Studies:** Once-daily dosing of didanosine produces a pharmacokinetic profile that is substantially different from that observed with twice-daily dosing of didanosine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). Further, VIDEX EC and the VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation produce substantially different pharmacokinetic profiles when dosed once daily. Therefore, controlled clinical trials were conducted with both formulations to evaluate the safety and efficacy of once-daily dosing of didanosine. There is no available long-term clinical information that directly compares the efficacy of the two once-daily didanosine formulations. A small clinical study that was conducted to address this issue was not interpretable due to the small number of patients who completed the study.

**Once-Daily VIDEX EC Study:** Study A454-152 is an ongoing, 48-week, randomized, open-label study comparing VIDEX EC (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) plus zalcitabine (750 mg three times daily) to zidovudine (200 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) combination tablets plus zalcitabine (750 mg three times daily) in 511 treatment-naïve patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 411 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (range 38 to 1105 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.71 log copies/mL (range 2.8 to 5.9 log copies/mL) at baseline. Patients were primarily males (72%) and Caucasians (53%) with a mean age of 35 years (range 18 to 73 years). The percentages of patients with HIV RNA <400 and <50 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure (i.e., virologic failure, discontinuation for any reason, or AIDS-defining event) through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 1.



\* This analysis includes all randomized patients through Week 24 and after that point is restricted to patients whose randomization date allows for 36 or 48 weeks of follow-up. The number of patients at each point is indicated below the figure.

**Once-Daily VIDEX Buffered Tablet Study:** Study A454-148 was a randomized, open-label, multicenter study comparing treatment with VIDEX Buffered Tablets (400 mg once daily plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) and zalcitabine (750 mg three times daily) versus zidovudine (200 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) and zalcitabine (750 mg three times daily) in 756 treatment-naïve patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 380 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (range 80 to 1560 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.68 log copies/mL (range 2.6 to 5.9 log copies/mL) at baseline. The percentages of patients with HIV RNA <400 and <50 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 2.



\* Percent of patients at each time point who have HIV RNA <400 or <50 copies/mL, are on their original didanosine formulation (except stavudine-zalcitabine switchers) and have not experienced an AIDS-defining event. For the differences between treatment groups at 48 weeks, p < 0.05 by Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test.

## CONTRAINDICATION

VIDEX EC is contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any component of the formulation.

## WARNINGS

### 1. Pancreatitis

FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WITH DIDANOSINE USED ALONE OR IN COMBINATION REGIMENS IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION. VIDEX EC SHOULD BE SUSPENDED IN PATIENTS WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATITIS AND DISCONTINUED IN PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED PANCREATITIS. PATIENTS TREATED WITH VIDEX EC IN COMBINATION WITH ZIDOVUDINE, WITH OR WITHOUT HYDROXYUREA, MAY BE AT INCREASED RISK FOR PANCREATITIS. When treatment with the sustained drug known to cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC therapy is recommended. In patients with risk factors for pancreatitis, VIDEX EC should be used with extreme caution and only if clearly indicated. Patients with advanced HIV infection, especially the elderly, are at increased risk of pancreatitis and should be followed closely. Patients with renal impairment may be at greater risk for pancreatitis if treated without dose adjustment. The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranged from 1% to 10% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

### 2. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis

Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including didanosine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received the combination of didanosine and stavudine with other antiretroviral agents. The combination of didanosine and stavudine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk (see PRECAUTIONS: Pregnancy). Particular caution should be exercised when administering VIDEX EC to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with VIDEX EC should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

### 3. Renal Changes and Optic Neuritis

Renal changes and optic neuritis have been reported in patients taking didanosine. Periodic renal examinations should be considered for patients receiving VIDEX EC. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS.)

## PRECAUTIONS

**Frequency of Dosing:** VIDEX EC should only be administered once daily. There are no data on the use of VIDEX EC dosed more frequently than once daily.

There are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen of didanosine. Therefore, the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX buffered formulation. Once-daily dosing with VIDEX EC should be considered only for adult patients whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation (see Clinical Studies). Consult the prescribing information for VIDEX buffered formulations and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for twice-daily dosing.

## R ONLY

VIDEX EC (didanosine) should be taken on an empty stomach.

**Peripheral Neuropathy:** Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving didanosine. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, in patients with a history of neuropathy, or in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including stavudine. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS.)

## General

**Patients with Renal Impairment:** Patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min) may be at greater risk of toxicity from didanosine due to decreased drug clearance (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). A dose reduction is recommended in these patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

**Patients with Hepatic Impairment:** It is unknown if hepatic impairment significantly affects didanosine pharmacokinetics. Therefore, these patients should be monitored closely for evidence of didanosine toxicity.

**Hypersensitivity:** Didanosine has been associated with asymptomatic hypersensitivity; treatment suspension may be necessary if clinical measures aimed at reducing uric acid levels fail.

**Information for Patients:** (See Patient Information Leaflet in full prescribing information.) Patients should be informed that a serious toxicity of didanosine, used alone and in combination regimens, is pancreatitis, which may be fatal.

Patients should also be aware that peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, may develop during therapy with VIDEX EC. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of VIDEX EC may be required if toxicity develops.

Patients should be informed that when didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when didanosine is used alone.

These patients should be followed closely.

Patients should be cautioned about the use of medications or other substances, including alcohol, that may exacerbate VIDEX EC toxicity.

Patients should be informed that the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation because there are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily regimen.

VIDEX EC is not a cure for HIV infection, and patients may continue to develop HIV-associated illnesses, including opportunistic infection. Therefore, patients should remain under the care of a physician when using VIDEX EC. Patients should be advised that VIDEX EC therapy has not been shown to decrease the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIDEX EC are unknown at this time.

**Drug Interactions (see also CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information):** The interactions that have been established based on drug interaction studies are listed with the pharmacokinetic results in CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions (Tables 3-5) in full prescribing information. The clinical recommendations based on the results of these studies are listed in Table 1.

## Table 1. Established Drug Interactions Based on Studies with Buffered Formulations of Didanosine and Expected to Occur with VIDEX EC

**Coadministration Not Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information for Magnitude of Interaction)**

**Coadministration Not Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information for Magnitude of Interaction)**

**Alteration in Dose or Regimen Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information for Magnitude of Interaction)**

**Drug Effect Clinical Comment**

ganciclovir ↓ didanosine concentration. Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.

methadone ↓ didanosine concentration. Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.

↑ indicates increase. ↓ indicates decrease.

**Coadministration of VIDEX EC with drugs that are known to cause pancreatitis may increase the risk of toxicity (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis). Predicted drug interactions with VIDEX EC are listed in Table 2.**

**Table 2. Predicted Drug Interactions with VIDEX EC**

**With Caution, Risk of Adverse Reactions May Be Increased**

**Drug Class Effect Clinical Comment**

Drugs that may cause pancreatic toxicity ↑ risk of pancreatitis. Use only with extreme caution.\*

Neurotoxic drugs ↑ risk of neuropathy. Use with caution.\*

**Neurotoxic increase.**

\* Only if other drugs are not available and if clearly indicated. If treatment with life-sustaining drugs that cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC is recommended (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis).

**See PRECAUTIONS: Peripheral Neuropathy.**

**Contraception and Mutagenesis:** Lifetime carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice and rats for 22 and 24 months, respectively. In the mouse, initial doses of 120, 300, and 1200 mg/kg/day for males were lowered after 8 months to 120, 210, and 210 mg/kg/day for females and 120, 300, and 600 mg/kg/day for males. The two higher doses exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in females and the low dose exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in males.

Didanosine did not increase the frequency of micronucleated cells in the bone marrow of mice or rats. A 0.68-fold maximum human exposure and the intermediate dose in males represented 1.7-fold maximum human exposure based on relative AUC comparisons. In the rat study, initial doses were 100, 250, and 1000 mg/kg/day, and the high dose was lowered to 500 mg/kg/day after 15 months. The upper dose in male and female rats represented 3-fold maximum human exposure.

Didanosine induced no significant increases in neoplastic lesions in mice or rats at maximally tolerated doses.

Didanosine was positive in the following genetic toxicology assays: 1) the *Escherichia coli* tester strain WP2 uvrA bacterial mutagenicity assay; 2) the L5178Y/TK<sup>+</sup> mouse lymphoma mammalian cell gene mutation assay; 3) the *in vitro* chromosomal aberrations assay in cultured human peripheral lymphocytes; 4) the *in vitro* chromosomal aberrations assay in Chinese Hamster Lung cells; and 5) the BALB/3T3 *in vivo* transformation assay. No evidence of mutagenicity was observed in an Ames Salmonella bacterial mutagenicity assay or in rat and mouse *in vivo* micronucleus assays.

**Pregnancy, Reproduction and Fertility:** Pregnancy "Category B." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at doses up to 12 and 14.2 times the estimated human exposure (based on plasma levels), respectively, and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to didanosine. At approximately 12 times the estimated human exposure, didanosine was slightly toxic to female rats and their pups during mid and late lactation. These rats showed reduced food intake and body weight gains but the physical and functional development of the offspring was not impaired and there were no major changes in the F2 generation. A study in rats showed that didanosine and/or its metabolites are transferred to the fetus through the placenta. Animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of didanosine in pregnant women. Didanosine should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk.

Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received the combination of didanosine and stavudine with other antiretroviral agents. It is unclear if pregnancy augments the risk of lactic acidosis/hepatic steatosis syndrome reported in non-pregnant individuals receiving nucleoside analogues (see WARNINGS: Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis). The combination of didanosine and stavudine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk. Health care providers caring for HIV-infected pregnant women receiving didanosine should be alert for early diagnosis of lactic acidosis/hepatic steatosis syndrome.

**Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry:** To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to didanosine and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-253-4263.

**Nursing Mothers:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV. A study in rats showed that following oral administration, didanosine and/or its metabolites were excreted into the milk of lactating rats. It is not known if didanosine is excreted in human milk. Because of both the potential for HIV transmission and the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving VIDEX EC.

**Pediatric Use:** The safety and efficacy of VIDEX EC in pediatric patients have not been established. Please consult the complete prescribing information for VIDEX, buffered formulations and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for dosage and administration of didanosine to pediatric patients.

**Geriatric Use:** In an Expanded Access Program using a buffered formulation of didanosine for the treatment of advanced HIV infection, patients aged 65 years and older had a higher frequency of pancreatitis (10%) than younger patients (5%) (see WARNINGS). Clinical studies of didanosine, including those for VIDEX EC, did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 years and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Didanosine is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection. In addition, renal function should be monitored and dosage adjustments should be made accordingly (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dose Adjustment).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

A SERIOUS TOXICITY OF DIDANOSINE IS PANCREATITIS, WHICH MAY BE FATAL (see WARNINGS). OTHER IMPORTANT TOXICITIES INCLUDE LACTIC ACIDOSIS/SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, RETINAL CHANGES AND OPTIC NEURITIS, AND PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

When didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of these toxicities may be higher than when didanosine is used alone. Thus, patients treated with VIDEX EC in combination with stavudine, with or without hydroxyurea, may be at increased risk for pancreatitis, which may be fatal, and hepatotoxicity (see WARNINGS). Patients treated with VIDEX EC in combination with stavudine may also be at increased risk for peripheral neuropathy (see PRECAUTIONS).

Studies of VIDEX EC in a buffered didanosine formulation yielded comparable safety profiles for both formulations. Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in clinical studies of didanosine dosed once daily in combination with other antiretroviral agents are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Selected Clinical Adverse Events from Combination Studies of Didanosine Dosed Once Daily

Percent of Patients\*

VIDEX EC: stavudine + zalcitabine n=255

VIDEX Buffered Tablets: stavudine + zalcitabine + didanosine + lamivudine + zalcitabine n=248

Adverse Events

Diarrhea 68 70 50

Nausea 21 26 21

Headache 20 35 29

Peripheral Neuropathy 20 18 25

Symptoms/Neuropathy 20 18 25

Vomiting 10 10 16

Rash 10 10 16

Pancreatitis (see below) <1

\* Percentages based on treated patients.

\* Median duration of treatment 43 weeks in the VIDEX EC-stavudine + zalcitabine group and 39 weeks in the zidovudine/lamivudine + didanosine + lamivudine + zalcitabine group.

\* Median duration of treatment 48 weeks.

\* Zidovudine/lamivudine combination tablet.

\* This event was not observed in this study arm.

was observed in one patient who received didanosine plus stavudine plus lamivudine, one patient who received didanosine plus stavudine plus lamivudine, and 2 of 68 patients who received didanosine plus stavudine plus lamivudine plus hydroxyurea. In an early access program, pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received VIDEX EC (didanosine) plus stavudine plus hydroxyurea plus zalcitabine plus lamivudine plus didanosine (see WARNINGS).

The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranged from 1% to 10% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

Selected laboratory abnormalities that occurred in clinical studies of didanosine dosed once daily in combination with other antiretroviral agents are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Selected Laboratory Abnormalities from Combination Studies of Didanosine Dosed Once Daily

Percent of Patients\*

VIDEX EC: stavudine + zalcitabine n=255

VIDEX Buffered Tablets: stavudine + zalcitabine + didanosine + lamivudine + zalcitabine n=248

Parameter

SGOT (AST) 4 40 17

SGPT (ALT) 4 39 20

Lipase 3 18 <1

Bilirubin <1 7 <1

\* Percentages based on treated patients.

\* Median duration of treatment 43 weeks in the VIDEX EC-stavudine + zalcitabine group and 39 weeks in the zidovudine/lamivudine + didanosine + lamivudine + zalcitabine group.

\* Median duration of treatment 48 weeks.

\* Zidovudine/lamivudine combination tablet.

\* >5 x ULN for SGOT and SGPT, >2.1 x ULN for lipase, and >2.6 x ULN for bilirubin (ULN = upper limit of normal).

**Observed During Clinical Practice:**

The following events have been identified during postapproval use of didanosine buffered formulations. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to didanosine, or a combination of these factors.

**Body as a Whole:** abdominal pain, alopecia, anaphylactoid reaction, asthenia, chills/fever, and pain.

**Disorders:** anemia, dyspnea, and fatigue.

**Exocrine Gland Disorders:** pancreatitis (including fatal cases) (see WARNINGS), sialadenitis, parotid gland enlargement, dry mouth, and dry eyes.

**Hematologic Disorders:** anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

**Liver:** lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), hepatitis and liver failure.

**Metabolic Disorders:** diabetes mellitus, elevated serum alkaline phosphatase level, elevated serum uric acid level, hypokalemia, and hyperglycemia.

**Musculoskeletal Disorders:** myalgia (with or without increases in creatine kinase), rhabdomyolysis including acute renal failure and hemodialysis, arthralgia, and myopathy.

**Ophthalmologic Disorders:** retinal degeneration and optic neuritis (see WARNINGS).

**OVERDOSE**

There is no known antidote for didanosine overdose. In phase 1 studies, in which buffered formulations of didanosine were initially administered at doses ten times the currently recommended dose, patients experienced pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, diarrhea, hypuricemia, and hepatic dysfunction. Didanosine is not dialyzable by peritoneal dialysis, although there is some clearance by hemodialysis (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics in full prescribing information).

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Adults:** VIDEX EC should be administered on an empty stomach.

VIDEX EC Delayed-Release Capsules should be swallowed intact.

The recommended daily dose is dependent on body weight and is administered as one capsule given on a once-daily schedule as outlined in Table 5.

**Dosing of VIDEX EC Delayed-Release Capsules**

Table 5. Recommended Dosage of VIDEX EC in Renal Impairment by Body Weight\*

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Table 5. Recommended Dosage of VIDEX EC in Renal Impairment by Body Weight\*



# Gay TV Network controversy grows more complex; stock value drops

by David Batterson

After two articles on the proposed Gay Television Network (GTN) over the DISH Network appeared in the *Bay Area Reporter*, an unhappy San Francisco investor contacted the paper with information about his investment in one of the sister companies — Triangle Broadcasting Co. Inc. — involved in the GTN venture.

Co-Media Inc. of Palm Springs, which announced it would begin broadcasting on February 2, claimed it had a contract with EchoStar Communications Corp., while EchoStar spokesman Marc Lumpkin told the *B.A.R.* that EchoStar does "not have a signed contract with Co-Media."

In the related matter, the investor, who asked to remain anonymous, told the *B.A.R.* he had received a January 15 letter from Max Craig Cassing, an attorney in Palm Springs "retained to serve as escrow representative for shareholders of Triangle Broadcasting Co. Inc. (OTC: GAAY), to exchange 2.375 shares of Triangle for one share of Triangle Multi-Media Ltd. Inc. (OTC: QBID)."

The investor said he had "in early 1998 invested \$4,200 for 50,000 shares of Triangle, only to have them later initiate a 5-to-1 reverse stock split under a new symbol, GAAY. Those 10,000 shares are now worth around \$40 to \$60," he said in a phone interview.

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission, "companies often split their stock when they believe the price of their stock is too low to attract investors to buy their stock. Some reverse stock splits cause small shareholders to be 'cashed out' so that they no longer own the company's shares. A company's board of directors may declare a reverse stock split without shareholder approval."

In a March 21, 2000 PRNewswire release, Triangle

Broadcasting had announced that its shareholders "voted in favor of the proposed sale of assets and exchange of stock with Triangle Multi-Media Ltd. Inc. As previously stated in the original announcement of the proposed business combination between GAAY and QBID, the two companies are still exploring opportunities with different third entities."

Cassing's letter stated: "This exchange of shares is entirely voluntary, and no shareholder is required to exchange their shares in Triangle Broadcasting Co. Inc. for shares in Triangle Multi-Media Ltd. Inc." The investor said that Triangle Multi-Media Ltd. is involved in telecasting bingo games in the U.S. and Mexico.

The San Francisco resident told the *B.A.R.* that "this has not been my best investment." He further added: "Is this another scam to screw the shareholders of Triangle Broadcasting Company Inc. by having them exchange their shares for those of QBID, and not having any connection to the proposed venture of Gay TV/Co-Media Inc. which may or may not prove to be a more valuable venture?"

In the original Co-Media Inc. (OTC: CMDA) news release of January 16, it stated: "The company's audited financial statements have been completed and [it] plans to file with the SEC its Form 10 by the middle of February 2001 to become a 12G Company." It further stated that Co-Media Inc. has radio, TV, Internet, and real estate holdings. "GTN's projected gross revenues for the next five years exceed \$250 million," according to the release.

In 1964 Congress amended the Exchange Act to bring into its regulatory regime companies whose equity securities are publicly traded on the over-the-counter markets. A company must register (on Form 8-A or Form 10) if it has a class of equity securities held of record by more than 500 shareholders and has total assets exceeding \$10 million.

run, compared to about 20 percent for Bush.

Bitter congressional Democrats point out that these numbers mean that Florida and New Hampshire would have surely gone to Gore instead of Bush, assuring Gore the White House. Nader is said by his friends to be "stunned" by the Democratic backlash and has even asked **Marcus Raskin** of the Institute for Policy Studies, an anti-globalization think tank, to reach out to those environmentalists, trial lawyers, and Democrats who once had an open door policy for Nader.

Many Democrats were only too eager this week to admit they had shut Nader and his people out. "Who's going to work with him now?" asked Representative **John Conyers** (D-Michigan), a top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee. "We're not going to touch him with a 10 foot pole; he has divorced himself from the very ideals that made him a worthwhile political actor; he sold out his own constituency by helping Bush become president," said Representative **Robert Wexler**, Democrat of Florida. Representative

page 22 ►

The GTN news release, for which Co-Media apologized to Michael Schwimmer, vice president of programming at EchoStar Communications Corp., also contained a "safe harbor statement." Such a statement contains a disclosure that investment in a company's stock could pose a risk.

It stated in full: "As a cautionary note to investors, certain matters discussed in this press release may be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such matters involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially, including the following: changes in economic conditions, general competitive factors, Co-Media's ability to execute its business model and strategic plans, and the risks described from time to time in the company's SEC filings."

GTN's January 19 letter of apology to EchoStar, from CEO Frank Olsen and President Marvin Jenkins, stated "we will submit all future press releases for your review 48 hours in advance. We will not issue future press releases without your prior approval."

The letter also stated: "I sincerely apologize that the words Dish Network were used in the press release. I want you to know that we do understand the delicate nature of putting gay programming on satellite. That is why we

set such high standards in selecting quality programming, which we call 'gay, family-oriented programming.'"

The San Francisco investor said that when he had originally purchased his stock in 1998, Co-Media Executive Vice President Dick Wiener was president of Triangle Broadcasting Co. Inc. The stock offering was made by John Martin & Associates of White Rock, British Columbia, Canada. A May 27, 1998 news release announcing Triangle's "preparing to broadcast live audio via its Web site" listed John Martin & Associates as the company to contact for more information.

An earnings statement for Triangle Broadcasting provided to the *B.A.R.* showed the company had income of \$2,710,905 for the first quarter of 1999. With 94 million shares outstanding at that time, the earnings per share amounted to \$0.0288. The projected share value at the time was \$0.72 each.

Shares of stocks in these and similar offerings are referred to as "penny stocks" and traditionally have a high risk value for investors. Since they do not trade in the traditional exchanges (New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq, etc.), trading activity is limited and prices are based on broker bids.

The *B.A.R.* checked the latest value of stock in the three compa-

nies by looking at listings in Pink Sheets ([www.pinksheets.com](http://www.pinksheets.com)) on February 4. Co-Media, Inc. (CMDA) had a "best bid" of \$.10 a share with a "best ask" of \$.15 per share. The annual high was \$1.24, with an annual low of \$.12. Stock is offered in a minimum of 5,000 shares.

Triangle Broadcasting Co. Inc. (GAAY) had a best bid of \$.0041 (less than half a cent) and a best ask of \$.0055. Its annual high was .70 with an annual low of .0005. Triangle Multi-Media Ltd. Inc. (QBID) had a best bid of \$.01 with a best ask of \$.015. Its annual high was \$.95, and annual low was \$.006.

The various companies have offices in Palm Springs, at 1000 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way. The GTN Web site ([www.wearegaytv.com](http://www.wearegaytv.com)) was no longer operating at press time. Only this statement appeared: "Site Under Re-Construction. Stay Tuned For Very Good News."

EchoStar Communications Corp. is a publicly traded company (NASDAQ: DISH, DISHP). DISH Network is EchoStar's direct broadcast satellite TV system that offers over 500 channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming. EchoStar's latest news release — dated February 1 — on its Web site ([www.dish-network.com](http://www.dish-network.com)) made no mention of Gay Television Network or Co-Media, Inc. ▼

## Investigational Immune Restoration Treatment for HIV+ Patients

A Phase I Research Study of a simple protein, or peptide, which is delivered by a single injection.

- HIV infection causes a decrease in CD4+ T cells.
- There are actually two types of immune responses mediated by CD4+ T cells - Th1 and Th2.
- In patients without HIV, the Th1 immune response is dominant, while the Th2 response is dominant in people infected with HIV. This may explain the increased rate of infections in HIV+ people and their difficulty in fighting them off.
- The Investigational peptide may reverse the CD4+ cell immune response to a pre-infection ratio (increased Th1 response) and result in clinical improvement.
- In animal models of AIDS, this peptide under study resulted in promising immune restoration in the treated mice.
- To qualify, you must be HIV+ with a CD4+ count between 200-400 and viral load <20,000 by PCR or <10,000 by bDNA.
- Monetary compensation provided.

For more information: please contact Dr. Chris Eden at (415) 759-4126 or [ceden@marcusconantmd.com](mailto:ceden@marcusconantmd.com)

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## Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

had easy access to Democratic congressional members on Capitol Hill. The backlash among Democrats against Nader first became apparent recently when Nader asked Senator **Patrick Leahy** (D-Vermont) if he could appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings to testify against the nomination of Attorney General John Ashcroft. Despite several requests to appear (and thereby, hopefully, make a splash on national TV), Leahy never returned his calls. Other Democrats, both in the Senate and the House, who were once friendly and always available to Nader, have reportedly told his associates at Public Citizen, which Nader founded in 1971, that they will no longer work with the consumer advocate. Democratic congressional doors have been slamming on Nader all over Washington since Bush's inaugural and every time his staff people call they are reminded that statistics show that over 70 percent of Nader's voters in the November election would have gone to Gore had Nader not



# Retroviral conference opens with focus on Africa

by Bob Roehr

The key research findings "show incremental and great progress on a wide variety of fronts," said Constance Benson, co-director of the eighth annual Retroviral conference. She spoke with the press at the February 4 opening of the five-day event in Chicago. She modestly, and accurately, claimed it as "one of the preeminent conferences in the world focusing on AIDS."

"Science should determine public health policy," said Kevin DeCock, director of U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Nairobi, Kenya, in addressing the opening session. "The scientific and philosophic underpinnings of public health are epidemiology and social justice. Surveillance is both the witness and judge in any epidemic."

"Africa is the world apart in terms of scope of the epidemic," he said. With about 10 percent of the world's population, "sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 70 percent of the world's HIV-infected persons, and 80 percent of the deaths." In many of these countries, "it is destiny for a majority of 15-year-olds to be dying of AIDS."

Estimates are that fewer than a million Americans are infected with HIV in a population of 270



Constance Benson

million. What would the U.S. do with Africa's rate of infection, asked DeCock. "We cannot stay away from the issue of antiretroviral therapy in developing countries."

He argued that "we have to change the social construct through which we look at the AIDS epidemic in Africa. We have painted this epidemic in the context of human rights." That came from experience in the U.S. and in South Africa's struggle to end apartheid. "I think we need to shift that paradigm to one of the eroding public health system in Africa."

"We cannot go on dealing with AIDS in Africa through the lens of AIDS exceptionalism which derived, very understandably and perhaps appropriately, from the 1980s in the industrialized world." He argued that there cannot be credible prevention without care.

DeCock sketched out how risk factors for transmission and acquisition of HIV infection are higher in Africa than the U.S. and can interact with a multiple effect. "One can envision a high risk environment in which a single act of unprotected sex carries a risk of HIV that is substantially higher than in the mid-western USA. Just say no is equally effective everywhere. Just say yes, even only once, carries very different risks depending on who and where you are."

Laurie Garrett was concerned with public health implications of large-scale use of antiretroviral therapy in the less than optimal setting of Africa or other regions



Kevin DeCock

of the world. The journalist and author of two respected books dealing with public health and infectious disease feared that adequate attention was not being given to the likely emergence and transmission of strains of HIV that are highly resistant to all currently available therapies.

She pointed out that even in highly AIDS educated populations, such as gay men in the U.S., there is misconception about how HIV can be transmitted even with an undetectable viral load. Unsafe sex practices seem to be growing.

DeCock admitted that resistance has emerged to every drug used long term to treat infectious disease. But he pointed to the dramatic effect of HAART in the West and said, "Surely we cannot say this is okay for the United States but not for Africa."

## Money talks

The scientists asked a practitioner of what some people have referred to the dismal science — an economist — to address them. "Science has responded brilliantly, but none of this reaches poor people," said Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard University.

"The essence of Africa's crisis begins with its extreme poverty," he said. It has experienced "a virtual collapse in its public health structure," and sub-Saharan Africa has no chance of economic development without that.

"Money is the key to it all." He chastised the Clinton administration for beginning to talk the talk, but in essence doing little. He cited the former president's trip to Nigeria where a \$10 million AIDS grant was announced four different times. Sachs put that sum in the context of the \$25 million cost of the trip to Nigeria for the president and his entourage. He said that Clinton could have done more than three times the good by staying at home and sending a check for the amount of the trip.

Sachs claimed that the major pharmaceutical companies "are ready to deal" in providing drugs for the beleaguered continent at a price near their cost of production. He calculated that a combination of two nucleoside analogs and a non-nucleoside analog, a common initial therapy in the U.S., would run about \$500 a year per person.

If the governments of the approximately 1 billion rich people of the U.S., Europe, and Japan each donated about \$5 per capita,

he estimated that the money would be sufficient to provide drugs for most of those in Africa who exhibit the symptoms of AIDS, as well as fund a large scale prevention program.

Sachs is "hoping that the pharmaceutical companies will go to the Bush administration" to press for such a program. He said that the congressmen who have traveled to Africa and seen the face of AIDS say it has "changed their lives," and support for such expenditures is growing.

But the scientists in the room were skeptical. They realize that many in Africa lack basics that Americans take for granted, such as clean, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The cost of drugs is but a small portion of the cost of creating a health care delivery system that must accompany those drugs.

Missing from Sachs's proposal was any call for the governments of Africa to shoulder a portion of the burden. A handful of the hardest hit nations find few resources for the health of their own people yet can afford to send portions of their armies to fight in the Republic of the Congo.

South Africa, the wealthiest and most medically advanced nation in the region, until recently had refused to accept free drugs to reduce the transmission of HIV from mother to child, yet ordered a new submarine for its Navy.

The need in Africa is great and growing. The response to stem the epidemic will be complex and costly, while failure to act may prove to be even more costly. ▼

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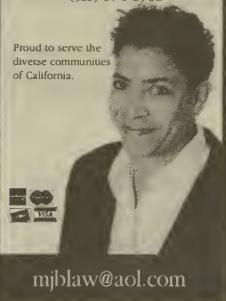
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## CAPE

◀ page 13

topic at last week's reception.

Goldberg explained that AB25 is intended to cover certain rights that last year's Proposition 22 (Knight initiative) proponents "claimed were not the intended targets of the initiative," like the right to make medical decisions, as well as property rights and death, health, and certain tax benefits currently allowed only to married couples.

In supporting the need for AB25, gay and lesbian activists point to a 1996 General Accounting Office report citing 1,049 different federally-based benefits given to people solely because they are married, benefits denied lesbian and gay couples.

Many other governmental and societal benefits are associated with the status of being married,

not the least of which are employment-based benefits including medical insurance coverage and retirement benefits. Because same-sex couples are forbidden the right to marry under state laws and the federal Defense Of Marriage Act, the benefits associated with that status are denied gay and lesbians Americans.

If it passes and is signed by the governor, AB25 would provide domestic partners in California with just a fraction of what's offered to heterosexual married couples, but it's a start.

Assemblyman Koretz also informed the *Bay Area Reporter* that he is about to sponsor a bill establishing Vermont-style civil unions for gay and lesbian couples in California. Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg's (D-Sacramento) chief of staff Andrea Jackson, one of four gay and lesbian chiefs of staff in the Capitol, said Koretz's bill is intended to "push the envelope."

Jackson said that her boss "believes in the right for gay and lesbian couples to wed" and will almost surely support the Koretz bill, but acknowledged Migden's AB25 has a better chance of passing. "The hard thing will be getting that 41st vote" it takes for a bill to pass, said Jackson, despite the fact that the Assembly now has 50 Democrats.

In part because of these two important bills, Kuehl asked those at the reception to spread the word to California's LGBT community to support CAPE's lobbying efforts this year. "I was just saying to Jean [CAPE Executive Director Jean Harris] in my office the other day: Imagine if a million people gave just \$25 dollars to CAPE. Wow, the things we could accomplish!" ▼

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# Ashcroft confirmed as attorney general

by Bob Roehr

The Senate confirmed John Ashcroft to be attorney general by a 58-42 vote last Thursday, February 1. Eight Democrats joined all 50 Republicans in that vote. Virtually the entire liberal end of the political spectrum worked to defeat the nomination, though it seemed clear from the start that it would be a nearly impossible task to accomplish.

Many senators of both parties who voted for Ashcroft would have preferred another candidate. But as Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin), one of the few liberals to vote for Ashcroft said, "Examination of the history demonstrates that it has been a nearly continuous custom of the Senate to confirm a president's nominees to the Cabinet in all but the very rarest of circumstances." It has done so only nine times in the history of the nation.

Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) interpreted the 42 votes he mustered as a sign they could successfully filibuster, or continue talking to prevent a vote, on judicial nominees they consider to be too conservative. Others suggested that an unwillingness to mount such a filibuster against Ashcroft undercut that claim.

The Human Rights Campaign worked to defeat Ashcroft because of the totality of his record, including the many anti-gay positions he took in the Senate. Most notable was his role in blocking a vote on James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. President Clinton later gave Hormel a "recess appointment" to that post, bypassing the Senate, and Hormel served with distinction.

"It is clear that a different man turned up for this job interview," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "To win confirmation, Ashcroft recognized he had

to turn himself into an inclusive moderate, an image in stark contrast to his record and past."

Birch vowed to hold the attorney general accountable "for the new, more moderate positions he professed" during the confirmation process.

Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, said they initially were troubled by the Ashcroft nomination. But the nominee's responses and pledge not to discriminate on the basis of race, sexual, on HIV issues, and in hiring "was everything you could have asked for." Log Cabin "did not endorse" Ashcroft, Tafel said, but they were pleased with his testimony and statements, and stated that on the record.

"The key for us was what he kept saying during the hearings, 'This will not be John Ashcroft's attorney generalship, this will be President Bush's attorney general' and reflect the administration's



John Ashcroft

lesbian and gay community.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas administered the oath of office to Ashcroft later that day in a private ceremony. The choice of Thomas was more than just the obvious one of racial symbolism; the pair have a personal friendship dating from when both were young lawyers working in the office of then-Missouri Attorney General John Danforth.

The *New York Times* reported that Ashcroft likely will name Larry D. Thompson as his deputy, who will largely run daily operations of the department. He is African American and served as U.S. attorney in Georgia during the Reagan administration.

The key slot of solicitor general, whose office argues government cases before the Supreme Court, likely will go to Theodore B. Olson. He is a high-power Washington attorney who successfully argued the Bush side of the Florida election before that court. ▼

## Diane Whipple

◀ page 1

fore I came in."

Whipple was very well liked and respected by the students she coached. Several broke down as they spoke offering prayers in her honor.

### Dog owners' letter

A day before the memorial Mass, the owners of the dogs that attacked Whipple, attorneys Robert Noel and his wife, Marjorie Knoller, issued a rambling 18-page letter implying Whipple was partially at fault for her own death.

The couple lived next door to Whipple and Smith. The attack happened in the hallway as Whipple was entering her Pacific Avenue apartment with two bags of groceries in hand.

Noel alleged in his letter that Whipple could have easily avoided the attack by entering her apartment and shutting the door when Bane, one of the two Presa Canario dogs Knoller was walking, was beginning to get out of control. Noel also wrote that Whipple "may have been wearing a pheromone (sic) based cosmetic or scent or that as a serious athlete she may have been a user of steroids which could have triggered the initial interest of Bane in her and would have had an affect (sic) on Hera [the other dog]."

Noel blamed Whipple for struggling during the attack and for allegedly hitting Knoller in the course of her struggle to get away from the dog.

The letter also implied a conspiracy against the couple by Whipple, Smith and the apartment manager and her partner.

"We understand that Ms. Whipple, her domestic partner and the apartment manager, Aleta and her domestic partners are close friends," Noel wrote. "We have had recurring disputes with both the previous owner and the current one over conditions at the building and have required the previous owner to spend more than \$300,000 in making inadequate repairs to the building. Aleta has attempted in the past to take action against us and may have enlisted the aid of her friend Ms. Whipple."

Aleta, who asked that her last name not be used, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Noel's allegations are false. She said she couldn't elaborate because she was advised by her attorney not to talk. Aleta confirmed other reports that Whipple had



Diane Whipple and her partner Sharon Smith in an undated photo.

been attacked by the dog before.

Bane was euthanized after the attack. The female dog, Hera, is being held in the custody of Animal Care and Control. Her fate hasn't been determined and her role in the attack is unclear. Some reports have suggested she bit at Whipple's clothing but no one is disputing that Bane initiated the attack. The couple has not been charged.

San Francisco Police Lieutenant Henry Hunter told the *B.A.R.* in an interview on Monday, February 5, that contrary to several media reports "arrests are far from being imminent."

"We got a ton of legwork and interviews to do," Hunter added. "Then we got to put it together to see if we have a chargeable case. We're not rushing to judgment."

When asked about the passage in Noel's letter in which he mentions a collaboration between Whipple and her domestic partner and Aleta and her domestic partner, Hunter said he couldn't comment on it because he didn't want to be prejudicial against Noel.

The case took a bizarre twist early last week when it was revealed that Noel, 59, and Knoller, 45, had adopted Pelican Bay Prison inmate Paul Schneider who, along with another prisoner, was involved in the breeding of several fighting dogs including Bane. Prison authorities say Schneider is a leader of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang.

Noel met Schneider when Schneider was a witness in one of Noel's cases.

"Because of the friendship that developed and the fact that Mr. Schneider, with one notable exception, has no living family, the three of us decided to establish a family unit," wrote Noel.

During a press conference out-

side Pelican Bay last Friday, February 2, Noel insisted that he wasn't blaming the victim for her own attack and he said he didn't know what precipitated the attack.

Smith has retained San Francisco attorney Michael Cardoza and is considering filing a wrongful death lawsuit against Noel and Knoller.

"I'm shocked. Disgusted, quite frankly that there's no sign of remorse," said Smith in an interview with KPXX-TV on Tuesday, February 6.

"This in my mind is murder," Smith added. "And I want them to be held responsible for that."

Smith said she's moving out of the apartment she shared with Whipple but is not giving up without justice.

"I want to take everything that they have. I want their life stripped away from them," she said.

Cardoza told the *B.A.R.* that he is confident the San Francisco District Attorney's office will file second-degree murder or manslaughter charges against the couple. Cardoza said he expects arrests will be made within the next two or three weeks and he said that the second dog, Hera, should be put to death.

"And I'm a dog lover and I don't say that lightly," Cardoza added. "Do we need to be hit over the head with what happened here? Apparently both dogs were involved and if the facts prove this dog was even peripherally involved, unfortunately it should be destroyed."

The hearing that will decide Hera's fate is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, at 2 p.m. in City Hall room 408. It will be conducted by Animal Care and Control and the San Francisco Police Department and is open to public testimony. ▼

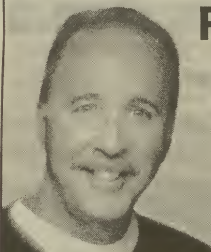


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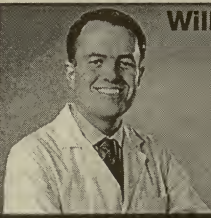
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# The changing AIDS treatment paradigm

by Matt Sharp, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

The eighth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections wrapped up Thursday in Chicago and as usual there is much information to decipher and apply to today's AIDS epidemic. It is now becoming obvious that treatment of HIV has changed because of years of mediocre and toxic drug therapy. Conferences such as the retrovirus meeting and anecdotes from the day to day care in HIV practices have begun to show that it is time to change the "hit early hit hard" paradigm of the last five years when protease inhibitors turned the possibility of HIV treatment into a reality.

On Monday, the Department of Health and Human Services changed long-standing federal guidelines for the treatment of HIV. They have changed their strategy of starting treatment early and are now recommending delaying treatment for as long as possible. The guidelines used to recommend treatment when important CD4 cells drop to 500, or virus levels reach 10,000 by the bDNA test (or 20,000 by PCR). The change is a clear shift in treating HIV as we know it today. The

new guidelines are 350 CD4 cells, or 30,000 bDNA viral load or 55,000 PCR.

These changes suggest that using HIV drugs definitely prolongs life, but at what cost? It appears that it is better to wait as long as possible before using them. HIV mutations causing drug resistance, toxic side effects, both cosmetic and life threatening, long-term care issues, and a wave of new HIV seroconversions are the reasons for the shift in how we think about treating HIV.

Despite all the hoopla from the conference, medical trends in HIV are usually noticed long before any medical meeting or scientific journal can report them, or before guidelines can be made. While conferences are necessary for reporting controlled data, turning to any good HIV doctor is an excellent way to provide important trends in the epidemic long before studies go through their bureaucratic timetables, and then get presented at conferences.

Discussing today's epidemic with four different HIV doctors in three metropolitan centers opens up an array of useful information.

While care and treatment varies from clinic to clinic and practice to practice, it is interesting to notice that most of the problems are compounding long term care situations that have forced the federal guidelines to change.

Dr. Virginia Cafaro's practice in San Francisco reported liver failure in patients who have HIV, hepatitis C, and are on antiviral therapies. Dr. Howard Grossman in New York recounted a major problem with liver toxicities in most of his patients. It makes sense that the liver cannot maintain such stress over the long haul, and it is clear that more organ failure will be seen in HIV in the future.

Lipodystrophy remains on every physician's list as an important problem mired with psychological and physical symptoms. Grossman attests, "People are just tired of taking all the drugs. Lipodystrophy has had a profound impact on adherence." Dr. Tom Klein from Chicago stated, "People are losing weight, they don't like the way they look though they may be feeling well. It's an ongoing, cumulative problem." So if patients don't like the way they look on the drugs, and are maintaining stable health, it makes sense that they would opt for strategies to go off their drugs, or at least delay the time when they should be started. Some dangerously choose to stop

on their own without the advice of their doctors.

All of the physicians reported rising new HIV infections. Grossman stated, "I think there's a problem when you combine the party drug use with the increasing trend to unsafe sex—that's the real danger. I just don't know anymore how to convince people to keep having protected sex when they are so inclined not to. I would say I am seeing one to two seroconversions per month. And this is among the most informed, educated people, a number of whom have been involved in HIV prevention work. Something is radically wrong here."

Klein said, "I definitely see a connection between new infections and crystal use." Cafaro agreed, "The drug scene is out of control. We are seeing more recent seroconversions and I don't see any end in sight. This is no longer feeling like a war but more like Vietnam where you just keep fighting and wondering what the hell is really going on."

Lymphoma is not seen more than years before, but Dr. Steven Deeks from San Francisco General Hospital reported that numbers of cases are high. Klein stated, "We may see more lymphoma as people live longer."

Deeks said, "Specific opportunistic infections (OIs) such as MAC and CMV are rare. However, AIDS-related deaths and non-specific AIDS-related events such as wasting are commonly seen. No particular opportunistic infection

is common." Klein stated, "Even in people who fail treatment I don't see many new OIs."

Overall, serious opportunistic infections seem to be down across the board. It is curious to see since AIDS used to be defined by the onset and later demise of people with PCP pneumonia, MAC and CMV. It is clear that the anti-HIV drugs and prophylaxis therapy have had a positive effect on OIs.

The changed federal guidelines reflect the conundrum in care of HIV today. When and whether you use the drugs is no longer a haphazard decision. The desire is strong for people to stop therapy if it is too toxic and if you are burned out, but understanding that if you do stop you may develop a serious infection and your HIV will progress. Cafaro despaired, "Going into a hospital now usually means you have a good chance of not coming out."

Over time HIV disease treatment and care will continue to confuse and confound everyone as different conditions and trends occur. But hopefully by listening to the trends, and interpreting the controlled studies, government and the pharmaceutical industry will wake up from their apparent apathy in finding better, more effective, less toxic treatments.

Klein stated optimistically, "I still have great hope for those in the chronic disease state. In spite of all the negative stuff, people should not despair. I am very hopeful that we will continue to see people doing well." ▼



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## HIV guidelines

◀ page 1

infection strongly suggests that this may be the best time and the best way to help train the immune system to fight back against HIV before it gets overwhelmed by the virus. This seems to be the group of patients who are best able to eventually stop all therapy and have their immune system control the virus at very low levels of replication.

### Reactions

At a February 4 news conference at the eighth Retroviral conference in Chicago, activist Mark Harrington charged that the organizers of the conference refused to allow a news conference for release of the guidelines. He is a member of the Treatment Action Group in New York City and has participated in shaping the guidelines and their revisions.

"No, it never came to that point," said Constance Benson in a testy exchange with Harrington. She is conference co-chair and a researcher at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. She explained that the executive committee had "lengthy discussions" about the matter and decided that the guidelines were not part of the meeting, nor something that they wanted to "highlight."

Later Harrington called Benson's response "all spin." If the guidelines advocated "hit it early, hit it hard," a position the conference organizers had championed in the past, he thought their response would have been different. He said the organizers "had their tails between their legs."

"I've been one who has been urging caution [in starting therapy] for a long time," said Dr. Donald Abrams. He is an AIDS doctor at the University of California, San Francisco and former president of

the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

"I think that most [experienced AIDS physicians] know that when you are taking care of a patient, what the patient wants is very much a driver of what kind of therapy you are going to prescribe," he said.

Dr. Douglas Ward, an AIDS

physician in Washington, D.C., echoed that view. He said, "The frontline people are already doing it, being a lot less aggressive with higher T-cell counts."

Both physicians were uneasy saying what they would recommend to a patient who had started therapy some time ago at around

next page ▶

## Taking a break: How to stop therapy

by Bob Roehr

Physicians realize that there are times when it makes sense to stop therapy, when toxicities are so extreme that the regimen is no longer tolerable, or when the drugs are no longer working. Doctors, however, are very much divided over stopping for lesser reasons.

One thing they do agree on is that if a patient is going to stop, it should be a clean break, so as to minimize the opportunity for drug resistant virus to develop on a less than optimal regimen.

Dr. Douglas Ward, a Washington, D.C. physician with more than 300 active HIV patients under his care, has very clear procedures for those who do decide to stop therapy. First to go are non-nucleoside analogs (Sustiva/efavirenz, nevirapine, delavirdine), about two days before the other drugs, so that their long half-life in the blood does not unnecessarily promote the emergence of drug-resistant virus.

He runs a genotype test on the patient to use as a benchmark when restarting therapy. If the patient has a viral load above 1,000, he will draw blood for testing soon after stopping. If the patient's viral load is undetectable, he will wait about two weeks after stopping therapy. That allows the virus to replicate to great enough quantities to show up well on the assay, but it is not so long that mutant virus recedes into the background as wild type re-emerges.

In addition, "What I generally do is viral load at one month, viral load and T-cells at two months, and then every two months until we follow the pattern of what is happening," said Ward. He will repeat the genotype test at four to six months to see if the virus of highly experienced patients has reverted to wild type.

He has one highly experienced patient who had boosted his T-cells to about 800 on an IL-2 protocol, but was on a double protease regimen and still had a viral load of 20,000, plus bad lipodystrophy. The patient stopped therapy for about six months, then restarted, said Ward. "He had reverted to wild type [during the time off therapy] and for the first time ever he is undetectable." ▼



## OBITUARIES

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization—and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Stan F. Bates  
1938-2001

Gay community activist and veteran schoolteacher Stan F. Bates passed away peacefully in his San Francisco home on January 15 after a brief illness. He is survived by his longtime companion, Hal Gage.

Born January 5, 1938 in Iowa, Stan moved to the Bay Area in 1962 after receiving his bachelor's of arts and master's degrees from Iowa State University. He went to work in the Fairfield-Suisun school district and received the Teacher

of the Year Award in 1997, one year before retiring after 37 years.

Stan was a good friend of Tenderloin Tessie and was among those who helped found Tessie's holiday dinner programs for the elderly and impoverished. He was active in the Imperial and Ducal councils and held various titles. They included Baron to the English Rose. He received the Baker Humanitarian Award last year. Stan was also active in the Tenderloin's Night Ministry Christmas in July benefits.

A celebration of life bar walk will be held this Sunday, February 11, starting at the Club Rendezvous on Polk Street, at 1 p.m., then stopping at the Giraffe Lounge, the Gangway, and concluding at Mr. LeeOna's, 301 Turk at Leavenworth, at 4 p.m.

## Former Gay Games athlete Allen Sabourin dies in gym

by Ed Walsh

A 53-year-old man collapsed and died while working out at Gold's Gym in the Castro last Tuesday, January 30.

Paramedics performed CPR on Allen Sabourin on the way to California Pacific Medical Center Davies Campus but were unable to revive him. Gold's manager Gwynn Villegas, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Sabourin was working out on an aerobics machine when he collapsed just before 11 a.m. Sabourin had a history of heart disease and died of a heart attack, according to Jessie Furrow,

an investigator with the San Francisco Medical Examiner's office.

Sabourin had been a member of the Tsunami swim team where he won a gold medal in the 1994 Gay Games. According to his published obituary, he's survived by his partner, Dennis Werkmeister, and a number of other close friends and relatives.

Tsunami swim team member, John Cook, told the *B.A.R.* that others on the team were shocked by Sabourin's death because several had seen him working out at the gym recently and he appeared to be in good health. Cook said Sabourin didn't swim much at all with the team last year but was a

regular in 1999.

Sabourin was cremated and a memorial service was held for him last Saturday, February 3 at the Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English funeral home on Sutter Street.

He was an active supporter of the Human Rights Campaign and of diabetes research. Memorial contributions can be made to University of California, San Francisco Foundation for the use of the UCSF School of Medicine for diabetes research, 44 Montgomery Street #2200, San Francisco, CA 94104 or Human Rights Campaign, 919 18th Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20006. ▽

## Writer, teacher, activist B. Michael Hunter dies

by Katie Szymanski

Chances are, if you've ever read some good literature or nonfiction about African American gays or the AIDS epidemic, Bertram Michael Hunter had a hand in putting it together. Sadly, the New York writer, teacher, and community organizer who took the pen name B. Michael Hunter passed away on Tuesday, January 23, from complications related to HIV medications. He was 42 years old.

Born and raised in East Harlem, Mr. Hunter became well known throughout queer and literary circles. He helped to create Brooklyn's Audre Lorde Project, an LGBTQ community center for people of color; and organized Gay Men of African Descent, a social service and advocacy organization. He was a donor and fundraiser for several efforts, including Brothers for Sisters, a program that engaged gay men in supporting lesbian causes.

As a writer, his work was anthologized in *Queer City: The Portable Lower East Side* (1991); *The Road Before Us: 100 Black Gay Poets* (1991); *Bohemia, Growing Up Male: A Multicultural Anthology* (1993); *One Teacher in Ten: Gay and Lesbian Educators Tell Their Stories*; and *Queerly Classed* (1997). He also edited the award-winning 1993 anthology *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS*.

As a public school teacher, Mr. Hunter taught social studies and writing in New York City, creating the first course on "Our Youth and the Virus." Last year, he was elect-



Bertram Michael Hunter

ed to the United Federation of Teachers' Delegate Assembly.

In *One Teacher in Ten*, Mr. Hunter spoke of his own struggle in trying to come to terms with AIDS. "I'm often unable to find language to express my own feelings of loss," he wrote. It was dur-

ing his editing of *Sojourner* that he tested positive, and soon after was asked to teach an HIV prevention course to teens.

"Once I agreed to teach the class, I had every intention of disclosing my seropositive status. I never did. I was afraid of being perceived as an infected gay carrier who warned students to protect themselves from high risk groups, which ironically includes gay men and sexually active teenagers," he said. "I also found it difficult to echo the prevention messages routinely targeted to the public that separate people into the negatives, those who must be spared, and the positives, those who will end up with AIDS and die."

Mr. Hunter is survived by his grandmother Ruth; father Bertram; stepmother Mary; siblings Victoria, Stephen, and David; his favorite cousin Sheila Mabry; his "adopted" sister Rhea Modeste; several nieces, nephews, and godchildren; and former domestic partner John Manzon-Santos. ▽

### HIV guidelines

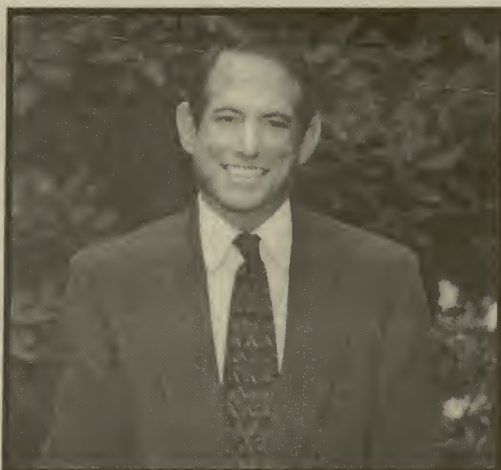
◀ previous page

500 T-cells and had an undetectable viral load. Should the patient continue on therapy or stop? There is little data to support either position.

The more experienced patient advocates seem to be the ones urging caution in the use of therapy. Harrington fought the initial draft guidelines in 1998 that virtually demanded an early start of therapy. The community gained a

change in language that made such intervention an option instead of a requirement.

"The people who are [medically] screwed right now started AZT monotherapy and went along the route of jumping into every one of the latest things that came out," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS. He believes this revision "will mark some kind of turning point, a change in emphasis." But he feels the impact "may take a year or two to ripple through." ▽



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# Euro flash

by Jim Provenzano

Bertrand Delanoë says it would be wrong to call him a "gay politician." He prefers to be known as a politician who happens to be gay. And if he wins his bid to become mayor of Paris, that city will never live down the phrase, "Gay Paris."

If only the same were true in the world of sports, where jocks could simply be open and out, and compete to win or lose. To the French, with a potential gay mayor, their attitudes may become even more progressive.

The French rugby team certainly has progressed toward having more gay fans since they posed tastefully nude for a fundraiser calendar called "Stadium Gods," giving reason for this week's gratuitously homoerotic photo.

Can we ever imagine an American sports team posing nude? While individual athletes have bared all, it's less than plausible that the NFL will ever live up to its X, except eXcessively.

In the meantime, for more French rugby players, and to buy the calendar, for 120 francs, (18 euro dollars) visit <http://www.stade.fr/> where they claim that "to seduce you and to prove (sic) they have no secrets for you, French champions decided to pose naked."

Merci, beaucoup.

## Foggy notions

Local gay rugburs don't have to pose nude to make an impression. They travel to England to do that.

During January 25-29, 11 members of San Francisco Fog rugby team crossed the Atlantic for a clinic put on by England's second gay rugby team, the Manchester Village Spartans.

It was also a celebration of the second anniversary of this gay-inclusive squad, which includes a few straight yet gay-friendly players.

SF Fog is only a few months old and has quickly established itself as a well-organized team eager to welcome new members, and join the ranks of dozens of other Bay Area sports groups.

A combined side of Washington Renegades and San Francisco

Fog rugburs played a match against the Manchester Village Spartans, on Saturday, January 27. It was the first international 15-a-side gay rugby game in history. The Americans lost 19-5, but put in a great effort. For all except three of the 11 Fog rugburs, it was their very first rugby game. Pete Dubois, also of Golden Gate Wrestling Club, was named MVP of this first historic match.

For an amusing personal account of both the playing and partying, visit the team's Web site at <http://www.sffog.org>. Non-Web-ified guys interested in joining can call the club hotline at (415) 820-GUTS.

## La publicit 

The BBC did some filming of the Manchester event, focusing on the Spartans' second anniversary. A week later, here in San Francisco, another BBC film crew visited Eureka Valley Recreation Center to make a short film about the Golden Gate Wrestling Club.

Comic Scott Capurro received a primer in grappling basics between offering campy quips for the



Scrum-dilly-icious: French rugby champs bare-ly support each other

camera. The film, set to air in a few months on *That Gay Show*, should bring some new fans, if not curious tourists, from the UK.

Last Sunday, locals at San Francisco's Uncle Bert's bar were treated to a special form of grappling — arm wrestling. Organizer Mark Paladini and hostess Susan Powder Puff raised over \$400 for Sunburst Project, a summer camp in Rohnert Park for kids with AIDS and HIV.

"There were people standing everywhere — on benches, behind rafters, and on tiptoes to see the action," said Paladini. "We had 15 wrestlers — nine men and four women. They competed for the gold (not real) pin engraved with 'Bay Area Charity Champion - Arm Wrestling Feb 2001' The men's pin was won by Jerome Jones and the women's was won by Cari Davidson." Both winners will be invited to the Edge bar on 18th Street on April 1 to be introduced as the first champions.

## Arbor daze

Considering what the current not-my-presidential administration is going to do to the environment, we'd all better start enjoying it while it lasts. And what better way than with Gay & Lesbian Sierrans? Every Saturday and Sunday, GLS hosts a different outing, such as a scenic hike to Castle Rock and Fort Point (February 24), a Sonoma County bike ride (February

25), even a dog hike to Redwood Regional Park, and a Mount Tam bike ride.

Membership to the Sierra Club ranges from \$19 to \$1,000, depending on your income and donation choices. For more info on the Gay & Lesbian Sierrans' Bay Chapter, call (415) 281-5666.

## Burn out

During my yucky days as a lowly content provider for the Gay Borg, one of the many idiotic statements made by one of my supposed bosses in dismissing the importance of gay sports coverage was, "Do we even need Gay Games?"

Well, as long as gay sports events still stir up homophobia, the answer is a resounding yes.

A gay pride flag was burned during Gay Ski Week last month, and Aspen, Colorado police are calling it a hate crime.

The rainbow flag was flown from the gazebo in Paepcke Park for the 24th annual Gay Ski Week. Police believe someone burned the flag less than 24 hours later. Pieces and black soot were all that was left of the multicolored fabric.

"It will be classified as a hate crime," said police Sergeant Sandy Brownlee was quoted as saying. Hate crimes are rare in Aspen, Brownlee said, saying that this was the first one she has investigated in the eight years she has been a police officer.

Other gay flags have been burned in Denver, Colorado and Columbus, Ohio. More than 4,000 people attended the annual Gay Ski Week, which ran through January 27 and raised money for charity.

## Sign up

Keep March 1 open on your calendar. It's the official pre-registration start for Gay Games 2002. Join Team San Francisco at Harvey's, 500 Castro Street, for the official kick-off. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m., with an auction of sports and Gay Games items. Team SF pins and T-shirts will be available, as well as a sneak peek at the Team SF uniforms. For more info, visit <http://www.teamssf.org> or call (415) 522-2386. ▼



Field of dreams: San Francisco Fog team members between plays.

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## Our Man Friday

◀ page 17

Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) said it is "bizarre" for Nader to even think he would suddenly be welcomed back with open arms after the way he attacked the Democrats during the election. "Nader can never admit he was wrong," said Frank. A female member of the California House delegation, long considered a political associate of Nader, said this week that "the anger of this past campaign is very real — perhaps Mr. Nader and his associates should go curry favor with President Bush and the Republicans since he's responsible for them being in power."

As Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown ponders whether or not he will seek re-election, we get word that his sister, Kathleen Brown, who served a term as state treasurer before losing a gubernatorial race to Pete Wilson in 1994, is back in Los Angeles working a new job at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and thinking about a possible return to elective politics.

One obvious casualty of the current electricity crisis in California is state Senator Steve

Peace (D-Chula Vista), who has recently disbanded an exploratory committee to run for secretary of state in 2002; Peace chaired the legislative conference committee in 1996 that wrote the deregulation law that is now one of the factors in the current state energy crisis.

Compared to last year, 2001 will be a slow political year when it comes to elections; New Jersey and Virginia will choose governors, there will be a couple of special elections to fill vacant congressional seats, and the two largest cities in the country, Los Angeles and New York City, will elect mayors. Even Republicans feel that Democrats will take back City Hall in New York City and Los Angeles, and Dems are also given a good chance of picking up that gubernatorial seat in New Jersey.

Locally, I'm told that San Francisco Superior Court Judge Lillian Sing is sounding out support for a possible run for Assemblyman Kevin Shelley's seat next year when he is termed out; the city's other seat, held by Carole Migden, is being eyed seriously by Board of Supes President Tom Ammiano, among others.

And how was your week? ▼



## CLASSIFIEDS

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245947

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sakanabune Japanese Restaurant, 5701 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Maak Corporation. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/15/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/01.

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246002

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vitalane Creative Design, 39 Boardman Place #104, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Juanchito Vitangcol, vice president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/01/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/01.

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245877

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sacred Gardens, 544 Los Palamos Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Lima. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/01.

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245882

The following person(s) are doing business as: Look Of Love Hair & Nail Salon, 3903-18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Giap-Pham-H. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/08/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/01.

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245956

The following person(s) are doing business as: Multi Trading Solutions, (MTS) 722 17th Avenue, San Francisco 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eun Pii Cho. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/11/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/01.

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245926

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lakeside Paradise Travel, 156 Eucalyptus Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vita Burmenco. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/10/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/10/01.

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 317840

In the Matter of the Application of Lori Bursell for Change of Name. The application of Lori Bursell for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Lori Bursell has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Cade Bursell. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 5th day of March, 2001, at 9 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 11, 18, 25, FEB. 1, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0221355

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Vitalane Creative Design. Located at: 39 Boardman Place #104, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 3/16/1998.

This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Juanchito Vitangcol

JAN. 18, 25, FEB. 1, 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246027

The following person(s) are doing business as: Uptempo, 2133 Stockton Street Apt. B304, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Roger Limon CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/09/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/01.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246021

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pangaea Fossils, 644 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Kurkewicz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/01.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246106

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ienscraft, 229 8th Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ron Lussier. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/01/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246085

The following person(s) are doing business as: La Focaccia, Focaccia, 1009 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gianluca Viscardi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246145

The following person(s) are doing business as: Petchiv, 2501 Bayshore Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brett Lunsford. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/19/01.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245522

The following person(s) are doing business as: Park Bench Cafe, 3214 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Samer Jweinat. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 12/21/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/21/00.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246077

The following person(s) are doing business as: Karmo Remodeling, 822 44th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Igor Karnaukhov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/17/01.

JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 318100

In the Matter of the Application of Celia Schoenbach for Change of Name.

The application of Celia Schoenbach for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Celia Schoenbach has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Dylan Vade. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of March, 2001, at 9 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 11, 18, 25, FEB. 1, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246037

The following person(s) are doing business as: P & K Painting, 1300 Page Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co partners signed Michael A. Truhill-Pierce and James M. Knight. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/15/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/01.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246133

The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio World Campus/ Presidio World Institute, Building #36, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard M. Gray, Ph.D., Board Secretary. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 03/15/93. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/19/01.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246335

The following person(s) are doing business as: Showbiz (The Memorabilia Store), 1318 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roger Dale Brown. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/29/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/29/01.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246235

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rose Enterprises, Speed Master, 4992 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Harry C. Sugang and Benelita Rose. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/25/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/25/01.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246114

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lion King Entertainment, 1791 Revere Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roland Ochoa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/18/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246499

The following person(s) are doing business as: Easy Fix, 584 Castro Street #302, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bevin Jennings Shamel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/05/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/01.

FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

## LEGAL NOTICES

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 317691

In the Matter of the Application of Darrell Gerard Ambuul for Change of Name. The application of Darrell Gerard Ambuul for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Darrell Gerard Ambuul has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Darrell Scarlet. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of March, 2001, at 9 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246422

The following person(s) are doing business as: Quick-Come Transportation, 38 Pope Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael K. Tam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/31/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/31/01.

FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pizza Organica & Brewing Company, 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Taylor Azevedo Maia, Rogerio Marina Silva and Gina Maria Gochez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/01.

FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 245807

The following person(s) are doing business as: California Rug Cleaners, 2507 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed David M. Jordan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/15/89. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/01.

FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246470

The following person(s) are doing business as: Milkcrates Entertainment, Eighty-Eight Milkcrates Entertainment, 185 Hale Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an general partnership signed Franco Cruz Torres, Brandon Cruz, and Lisette Cruz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/02/01.

FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 316961

In the Matter of the Application of Victoria Beatrice Black for Change of Name. The application of Victoria Beatrice Black for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Victoria Beatrice Black has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Eowyn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of February, 2001, at 9 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

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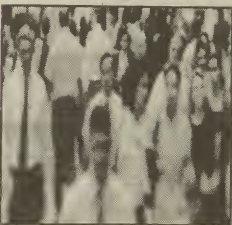
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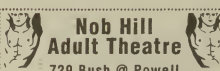
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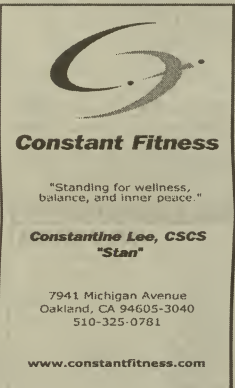


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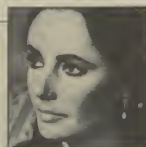
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Feverish folkdance-based film  
SF Cinematheque fetes gay visionary  
director Sergei Paradjanov at Yerba Buena.  
page 33

Rhapsody in Liz  
La Taylor to appear on  
TV in 'These Old Broads.'  
page 35



Love with a VCR  
Gay video choices for  
Valentine's Day 2001.  
page 48



BAY AREA REPORTER

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 6 • 8 February 2001

## Art or bust

by Robert Julian

### Pierre et Gilles: French for 'Fabulous'

Of course it's fabulous, but what is it? This is the nagging question that inevitably surfaces in any discussion of the work of Pierre et Gilles. Are their painted photographs art or kitsch, inspired meditations on traditional themes or pop culture trash? It's not likely these questions will be settled on this page, or any other, in the immediate future. But these are the same questions asked in the '70s about the silkscreens that emerged from Andy Warhol's Manhattan "factory," and the gavel of art history has clearly fallen on the artistic side of that argument.

Pierre et Gilles, gay lovers and collaborators, have produced their startlingly original images for a quarter of a century now. They were each involved with other men when they first met, Pierre working as a photographer and Gilles as an illustrator, but the personal connection between the two men was so strong they soon became lovers. After a year of working separately, the two Parisians

decided to combine their talents to produce the painted photographs that have made them famous.  
page 42 ►

Neptune, with  
model Karim, by  
Pierre et Gilles, 1988

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



by Roberto Friedman and Steve Harrington

**S**am Staggs, author of *All About Eve*, will introduce the pristine new print of the film on Friday, February 9, 8 p.m. at the Castro Theatre. This restoration is so good that it's being compared by hyperbolists to the cleaned-up *Sistine Chapel*, and Staggs is convinced *All About Eve* has more devotees than the Vatican.

Staggs will also answer questions from the audience and sign books (subtitled *The Complete Behind-the-Scenes Story of the Bitchiest Film Ever Made*) after the screening. In writing the book, he found out just how bitchy some *Eve* cast members were — and still are. When he phoned Celeste Holm early on to ask for an interview, she snapped, "Why the hell do you want to write a book about that picture?" And that was only the beginning. When *Vanity Fair* excerpted the book, Holm wrote a letter to the magazine claiming "to set the record straight." The only problem was that she merely repeated stories that Staggs had included in the excerpt!

When people ask him about the Holm meltdown, Staggs quotes a line from another *Bette Davis* movie, *Now, Voyager*: "Let's not linger over it." In the next breath, he'll tell you exactly how he feels about La Holm. For starters, he quotes Davis again, who said, "The only bitch in the cast was Celeste Holm." Then he



Celeste Holm and Bette Davis in *All About Eve*

paraphrases still another Davis line, from *Eve*: "Ms. Holm can put that 50-year-old grudge against Bette where her heart ought to be." Remember to ask Staggs what was in the letter his lawyer wrote to Celeste that finally shut her up.

His next book is another tell-all: the behind-the-scenes scoop on *Sunset Boulevard*.

#### Game theory

Talk about foul play: Out There's East Bay spies strolled

into the Games store in downtown Berkeley last week and were horrified to find the Dr. Laura board game, a tie-in product linked to the odious one's ill-fated venture into TV. Out There wonders if the game is true to its obtuse, bigoted inspiration. If so, players might pick up a "Community Chest" card that reads, "Who's a biological error, for 50 points?" As per Dr. L, that'd be us, dearies.

#### Cash flow

SF resident Brian Bringardner is concerned about the price of attending the upcoming *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music*. Its West Coast premiere at the Castro Theatre tonight, Feb. 8, is a benefit for Frameline — a good cause — but its two-week run at the Castro beginning Feb. 16 profits its producers.

"I hope you will consider addressing the issue of the ticket price, which tops out at \$22.50," Bringardner wrote to us. "You can own the movie for less than that! When I questioned the producers about this, they explained

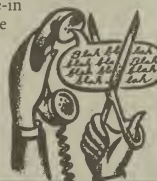
that they provide an m.c. and a bag of toys for each audience member. For \$22.50, I want Julie Andrews to greet me at the door!" Yes, and topless!

We think this concerned citizen has a valid point, since not everyone can afford to drop almost \$50 on a pair of tix for a night at ye olde Castro. Considering that the movie palace's acoustics are notoriously bad, it's probably a good thing that the audience itself will be supplying most of the sound.

But another issue about the show has Out There's own panties in a tangle. In our coverage of the event, the BAR will dutifully use the spelling which the show itself provides — *The Sing-A-Long Sound of Music* — even though we know they mean *sing-along*. Or perhaps, since the event is said to last 3 hours and 45 minutes, the title constitutes a warning and advisory.

#### Writers behaving badly

Books are Out There's bread and butter, and books about books are even better. That's why we lapped up the new release *Gay Fiction Speaks: Conversations with Gay Novelists* by Richard Canning (Columbia). Canning interviews such compelling writers



Out There

as Dennis Cooper, Alan Hollinghurst and Allan Gurganus, and he's read their books, too, which makes their conversations informed and literary. Our favorite section is devoted to Brooklyn-based author James Purdy, author of 63: *Dream Palace* and *Malcolm*, and a character from the word go.

Purdy on religion: "The life of Christ was very interesting. One wonders what was going on. I'm sure it wasn't any ordinary gay thing. But it certainly has that feeling."

Purdy on hetero author William Faulkner: "There's something so constipated about him — like he had a thistle up his ass. But he wrote some pretty interesting books. As *I Lay Dying* is quite a feat. But a lot of it's like if you ordered spaghetti and they brought you wood shavings and you had to chew and chew."

Canning finds his literary lions in candid mood. Edmund White, usually so diplomatic, says of a scathing review he received at the hands of author/activist Larry Kramer: "With Larry, I think he's a pathetically bad writer, so I just found it ludicrous that he'd even be given a forum to deliver himself of an opinion about my writing."

This petulance is nothing compared to that of the imperious playwright Edward Albee, whose perpetual arrogance and dismissal of others' opinions are legendary. When London theatre

columns panned his new effort, a drama with the flat-footed title *The Play About the Baby*, Albee called them "snippy little reviews in idiot papers."

Now that the play has opened in New York, Albee gave an interview to the *Times*, in order to spread the love around. "Some critics are morons just by nature," he pronounced. "Others are there to save the audience from any interesting experience." But some playwrights have already done the job.



Jazz pianist Brad Mehldau

#### All that jazz

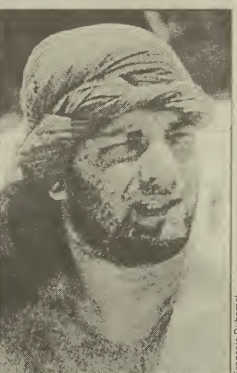
From the very first note in his solo concert last weekend at the Herbst Theatre, jazz pianist Brad Mehldau sparked energy. From OT's seats we could see his hands fly over the keys of the Steinway grand, and his shoulders rock to the rhythm. Through complex improvisations, Mehldau never lost the thread; he took melodies by Paul Simon, Neil Young, Nick Drake and Fiona Apple, and made them swing. He made "Cry Me a River" new.

Mehldau is just another brilliant jazz musician who was overlooked in the recent Ken Burns Jazz series on PBS — along with such important figures as Albert Ayler, Sun Ra, Weather Report, Keith Jarrett and Chick Corea. Mehldau, only 30, can only meet greater renown.

#### Hankering for a statue

With the list of this year's Academy Award nominations due out on Tuesday, OT finds ourselves whining an annual lament: "Why can't old movies be nominated for Oscars again?"

"Silly Out There," you say, "old movies can't be nominated, because if they could, studio actor Tom Hanks would be nominated over and over again for his groundbreaking role as Forrest Gump."



Tom Hanks in *Cast Away*

But we thought Hanks was nominated over and over again for his role as Forrest Gump. When he's not appearing in feature-length commercials for Federal Express. ▼

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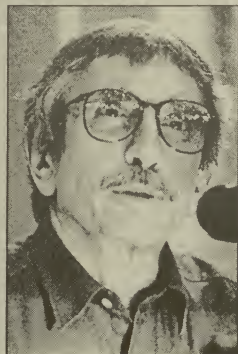
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Edward Albee in 1991



## THEATRE

# Kiss and tell

## Dangerous attraction in 'Stop Kiss'

by Richard Dodds

When Diana Son wrote a play about two women who fall in love, she knew she was taking a risk. And when the two women of *Stop Kiss* suffer a violent attack because of their affection, she knew that the message could be misinterpreted.

"Suspicion is cast on me because I am not living my life as a gay person," Son said from New York. "But I am in an interracial relationship. If this play were about a Korean American woman and a white man, I do not think anyone in the Korean American community would say the message is that Korean American women should not date white men."

But she never considered telling that story. "I don't think it's as electric," Son said. "To me, that story has been told, two people overcoming their racial prejudice to accept each other. It's a newer story that two women should have to overcome their own sense of sexual selves in order to let the attraction thrive."

The play, having its San Francisco debut this week at Brava Center for the Arts, was a hit for the New York Public Theatre in 1999 and won the GLAAD Media Award for outstanding New York production. But even without prompting, Son brought up the fact there is "a minority interpretation of the play that is very different from the one I intended."

The play is not just about the tentative courtship between two friends who had not previously thought of themselves as lesbians. Nor is it merely a hate-crime melodrama. When one of the women is left an invalid after the attack, the other woman makes the commitment to care for her. "It was never my purpose to explore what they did to cause the attack," she said, "but to look at how they live with their situation now."

It is a situation with particular resonance for Son. "When I was 18, my mother had a stroke that left her paralyzed and speechless for the rest of her life," Son said. "I was a very irresponsible kid, but I was the one who stepped up and learned how to take care of her. The scene in *Stop Kiss* where Callie dresses Sara, that is the condition my mother is in, and what Callie does for Sara is what I have done for my mother thousands of times. So it's another reason why the misinterpretation is so terribly wrong."

Son grew up in Delaware as the all-American daughter of Korean-born parents. She fell in love with theater during a high-school field trip to *Hamlet* at the New York Public Theatre, and chose NYU for college so she would be close to the site of her epiphany.

"I didn't know anything about the theater at all," she said. "I didn't know you couldn't go to the bathroom except at intermission. I mean, fundamental ignorance about the theater."

Her first high-profile production came with her play *Boy*, a slapstick morality tale about sexual identity and gender discrimination. And she has two new plays in the pipeline. But she has paid



Stop Kiss playwright Diana Son

the bills by writing for television.

Son was a staff writer during the first season of *The West Wing*, one of those occasional series that can be called quality television. That quality was not enough for Son.

"It was not rewarding," she said. "If you're not being respected as a writer, if your ideas are being used and you're not getting credit, it doesn't matter how good

the show is. You can work on a shitty show and have a really great time."

For more info on *Stop Kiss*, call 392-4400.

### Mini-review: 'Fall'

*Fall*, the current play at Berkeley Rep, has the amiable tone of an ABC After-School Special. Except that in Bridget Carpenter's script, the 14-year-old girl who has a crush on a married man actually gets laid. The way Carpenter structures the piece, we're rooting for little Lydia to get some nookie.



Megan Austin Oberle in *Fall*

Of course, it helps that the talented Megan Austin Oberle looks like a very mature 14-year-old, so it isn't so jarring when she flirts her way into a boyish man's arms. Carpenter tacitly endorses the tryst, and also the wisdom of Lydia's lying to her suspicious parents. It's a low-stakes view of what is usually a breast-beating subject.

But the rest of *Fall* is both ordinary and familiar, something like a mild *Dirty Dancing* in which Lydia is dragged to a swing-dance camp by her oblivious parents. Such calamities as the father taking work-related calls while dancing befall this seemingly happy couple. Oh, and mother and daughter have communication problems.

*Fall*, which features only flash-

es of real swing dancing, is an oddly unedgy play about an edgy subject. It may be the first feel-good play about statutory rape.

### 'Vagina' variations

Marga Gomez, everyone's favorite funny lesbian, is back in San Francisco to talk about vaginas. Gomez is part of the new team starring in Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* at Theatre on the Square. Her comrades are Rita Moreno, who makes her home in the Bay Area when not playing a tough nun on *Oz*, and Vicki Lawrence, who, contrary to rumor, will not perform made up as her character from *Mama's Family*.



Marga Gomez

The Gomez-Moreno-Lawrence contingent will continue through Feb. 18, when Kathleen Chalfant (*Wit* and *Angels in America* in New York), Jill Eikenberry (*L.A. Law* and now a Marin resident), and Lorri Holt (*Dinner with Friends* at Berkeley Rep) take over for two weeks beginning Feb. 20. For more info, call 433-9500.

### Musical ACT

Pleased with the results of Barbara Cook's end-of-year concerts, ACT has booked two more women of song into the Geary Theatre. Betty Buckley, who introduced "Memory" in *Cats* on Broadway, will perform March 11 and 12. Wesla Whitfield, the local chanteuse who regularly appears at the Plush Room, will introduce a new show on April 22.

There will be more to come for the theater's dark nights on a "very irregular schedule," said ACT spokesman Luis Palomares. "We were going to call it the Diva Series, but now we're thinking beyond just divas." Comedy, movie premieres, and dance are some of the genres that may turn up.

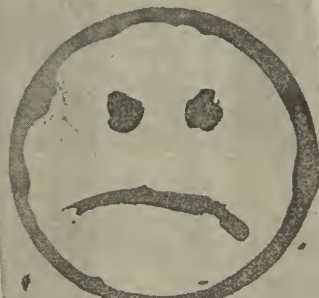
### Drag stories

It's a one-man show about eight-and-a-half women. In *Girlesque*, Sean Owens looks at the evolution of the "new breed" of drag queen. Opening this week at the Exit Theatre, and performed as a vaudeville, *Girlesque* combines confession, critique, and impersonation of the real-life women that have inspired drag.

Owens is best known for *The Big Drag*, which won a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award for best original script. *Girlesque*, which features an original score by Don Seaver, is Owens' 15th play, and his first foray into solo performance. Ticket info is available at 255-2066. ▽

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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# Gasp-along 'Snakebit'

by Richard Dodds

The first words out of Michael's mouth are, "I can't move." Since cardboard boxes stamped with U-Haul logos surround him, it's safe to assume that he's protesting a pending relocation. But as *Snakebit* unfolds, it becomes clear that Michael is in a state of self-paralysis that can only be broken by emotional upheaval.

David Marshall Grant's off-Broadway hit, now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, provides that upheaval in a fiercely acted production. The play may fall into melodramatic catharsis — one of the characters even likens their situation to a Jerry Springer broadcast — but the intelligence that infuses both the humor and the passion overcomes that epithet.

The setting is designer Rob Vogt's sitcom-sunny LA apartment, a place where the *Three's Company* trio might feel at home. But the stakes are higher for the three characters of *Snakebit*, who find their relationships tested to the breaking point.

Michael is moving because, after being dumped by his closeted lover, he can no longer make the rent. Into this unsettled situation come two of Michael's oldest friends, Jenifer and Jonathan, who are married but not too happy about it.

They are staying at Michael's apartment while the aggressively self-centered Jonathan auditions for an action movie that might finally make him a star. The emotionally shaky Jenifer has her own agenda for the visit. Unbeknownst to her husband, she and Michael

Richard Gallagher, Tarek Caan, and Desiree Rogers in *Snakebit*

had an affair shortly before she married Jonathan, and she wonders if somehow AIDS could be the cause of her daughter's chronic illnesses.

Director Arturo Catricala's production is smartly staged and emotionally charged in a way that found the opening-night audience audibly gasping as long-held secrets were revealed. The four actors, three of whom acted together at New Conservatory in *Corpus Christi*, stay admirably connected with their characters and with their complicated relationships.

Richard Gallagher exquisitely captures the passive-aggressive Michael, a former dancer who has been suspended from his job as a social worker for growing too attached to a client. As Jonathan, Tarek Caan makes the most of the showiest role, creating an appealing asshole with a scary temper and a redeeming ability to see his

faults. Desiree Rogers finds a nervous nobility in Jenifer, and Kevin McMahon sweetly plays an important stranger who shows up at Michael's door.

Until *Snakebit*, David Marshall Grant was best known as an actor who helped bring *Angels in America* to Broadway. His first-produced play is nothing like Tony Kushner's phantasmagoria, favoring conservative construction and a dramatic style that won't be alien to soap-opera fans. But Grant's characters ring true, and their intelligence makes them worth our while, a fact that New Conservatory's high-octane production bears out. ▼

**Snakebit will run through March 24 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$15-\$22. Call 861-8972.**

## Lowlife duet

'Howie the Rookie' at the Magic Theatre

by Richard Dodds

It takes 10 minutes or so before you can decipher what's going on in *Howie the Rookie*, but once you latch onto the argot, a rare theatrical magic begins to envelop you. Made of just a pair of 45-minute monologues on a bare stage, Mark O'Rowe's London import at the Magic Theatre finds a cinematic grandiosity in its spare depiction of two dead-end characters in contemporary Dublin.

O'Rowe, a playwright largely unknown before *Howie the Rookie*, creates a language for his characters that finds a rhythmic poetry by stripping away unnecessary words. There isn't a syllable wasted, even as O'Rowe invents sounds, words, and syntax that are unknown in everyday speech and yet begin to make perfect sense here.

The two monologues build on each other, the first setting up the situations that the second continues in an explosively unexpected fashion.

In the first act, a minor aimless thug named Howie decides that a preening ladies' man known as the Rookie needs a thrashing for infecting a friend with scabies. From this seemingly inconsequential quest, actor Aidan Kelly creates a vivid portrait of his world, complete with a parade of acquaintances with nicknames like the Avalanche, Ginger Boy, Peaches,

Aidan Kelly and Karl Shiels star in *Howie the Rookie*

and Pudding Boy. The comedy of the lowlife antics takes a sudden turn — perhaps too sudden — in the closing moments of the first act.

The second act begins after the beating has been delivered, and the bruised but still cocky Rookie is going about his business of stumbling into trouble. When he runs afoul of the sinister Ladyboy, it is Howie who surprisingly comes to his rescue, atoning for the lapse that led to the tragedy of the first-act finale. Amazingly, as the Rookie, Karl Shiels manages to build on Kelly's stunning first-act performance, creating a scenario that is both mesmerizing and hor-

rific as he recounts the ferocious battle between Howie and Ladyboy.

The Magic Theatre scored a coup by signing London's Bush Theatre production early on, long before a recent sold-out New York run fueled by a rave in *The New York Times*. San Francisco is the only other US city seeing the original cast and production, and it's an opportunity that would be foolish to squander. ▼

**Howie the Rookie will run at the Magic Theatre through March 4. Tickets are \$25-\$30. Call 441-8822.**



# Rapturous whimsy

Paradjanov program at Yerba Buena Center

by Gary Morris

**S**urrealism, "incitement to suicide," and my favorite, "traffic in art objects leading to homosexuality," all sound like respectable weapons in the modern-art arsenal. In the case of legendary director Sergei Paradjanov (born 1924), they were grounds for 15 years of forced inactivity and nearly five years of imprisonment in one of the Soviet Union's many pre-glasnost hard-labor camps. What was it about this jovial, bearlike man that invoked the unending wrath of Russian censors? It could have been his abandonment of wife and children to live the unashamed gay life he'd apparently always craved.

And then there are the films, a dozen features working such "troubling" territory as celebrations of Armenian (i.e., non-Russian) culture, a Dionysian (some would say delirious) approach to his material, his strict adherence to a no-linear-plot policy, and a general air of rapturous and whimsical indulgence in color and sound — hardly the stuff to further the revolution. Official reactions to the slew of hunky men — in one case, a sexy young man transformed by Svengali Paradjanov from literal rough trade to stylized superstar — parading through the films in various states of undress have not come to light.

Paradjanov is being feted by the SF Cinematheque February 8 & 15 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, programs almost coincident with the release of three of his most significant features on DVD in April. Sympathetic response to this visionary's work has always required an open mind and the ability to be transported by the filmmaker's captivating imagery and grand-design soundtracks, which evoke both the richness of Georgian-Armenian folk music and the high-art sounds of the great Russian composers. For those who can sit still for 90 minutes of feverish folktale-based tableaux, it might help to know that Tarkovsky said Paradjanov was the only modern Russian director he respected.

## Nova express

The *Color of Pomegranates* (1972) is considered the director's masterpiece, but it's also one of his most challenging works. Nominally a biography of Armenian

poet and troubadour Sayat Nova, the film opens with a series of striking tableaux vivant, most notably one in which the youthful Nova lies down in what looks like a concrete gully with seemingly endless books arranged around him, their pages fluttering fantastically in the breeze. Books are crucial to Paradjanov, not only because they contain and hold much of the world's artistic history, but because much of his imagery is inspired by the ancient illuminated manuscripts that he always managed to obtain access to. (The church apparently liked him more than the government did.) Nova's history is rendered as a kind of interiorized *bildungsroman*, tracing the boy's progress from early bookworm to apprentice rugmaker to devotee of the female body. "I am the man whose life and soul are tortured," reads a subtitle re-

peated throughout the film, but Paradjanov's colorful vision of a rich culture in which every dress is a tapestry and every man a handsome devil is far more upbeat than the phrase suggests.

Paradjanov's much-noted hubris is clear from the start of *Pomegranates* when he aligns himself with the Christian God by invoking the creation of the world. The second feature on view, *The Legend of Suram Fortress* (1984), is less grandiose though no less mesmerizing. Less episodic and more narrative-minded (sort of) than the other film, *Suram Fortress* is an almost picaresque tale of a plebe who gets his freedom and sets off to buy that of his wife, a fortune-teller. The film pivots on the concept that the Georgian way of life, symbolized by the fortress, can only be saved if a young man is willing to be walled up inside it.



*The Legend of Suram Fortress* (1984): mesmerizing

This metaphor for a regional culture threatened by an oppressive, dominant one probably was not lost on Paradjanov's detractors, but happily, the film, with its gor-

geous Georgian landscapes and fantastic tableaux, has outlived its enemies. Anyone wishing to learn more about the life of this much-abused but always uncompromising artist should stay after either film for Rouben Kevorkiantz's documentary *Paradjanov, The Last Collage*, unscreened by this reviewer but by all accounts worthy. ▼

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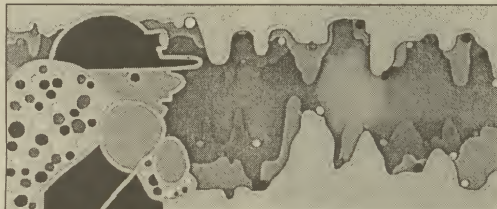
## Truth and illusion

Second Thursday view of First Thursday

by Will Shank

**T**his month, Haines Gallery (49 Geary St.) is showing new sculpture of Bay Area artist Yoshitomo Saito in its smaller back room, and there are some surprises there. Having skipped right past the title of the show, I wondered what the point was of painting corrugated cardboard pieces to look like patinated bronze, and only after reading the checklist did I learn that just the opposite was the reality of Saito's sculptures. The hodgepodge of flat or bent chunks of cardboard screwed to the gallery wall are in fact bronze disguised as cardboard. I was reminded of Robert Rauschenberg's famously meticulous dissembled cardboard boxes from the early '70s, semi-flattened against the wall and lithographed to resemble commercially-made "originals." It is a clever visual game of truth-and-illusion. The title of Saito's show, *Imagiore in Bronze*, is a word-play to rival the *trompe l'oeil* nature of the sculptures: "Imagiore" is a made-up word which spells "Origami" in reverse.

Across town in Hayes Valley, Bucheon Gallery (540 Hayes St.) has installed a remarkable show of



*Finding Reasons to Continue*, by Jerad Walker, 2000, at Bucheon Gallery

the works of local artist Jerad Walker which also involve a trick of subtle illusion in their construction. The paintings are deceptively simple, almost cartoonish in their apparent two-dimensionality, and they do not reproduce well. (But check out the website anyway: [www.bucheon.com](http://www.bucheon.com).) After a first glance, the truth of their construction slowly becomes apparent: the paintings are three-dimensional, and the translucent thick resin that is their main component reveals layers of complexity the longer the viewer looks "into" them. Walker describes his paintings as being "mostly about people, language, energy and religion." Many of them feature one word (e.g. alcoholic, or brainwash) and a graphic

image open to many interpretations. There are also alphabet walls in English and Spanish, but the word choices in Walker's clever paintings are not necessarily from your father's (or *tu padre's*) Webster's dictionary. Hurry; the show closes on February 15.

## Revenge of the nerds

Also about to close (this Saturday, February 10, so run!) is a wonderfully bizarre exhibition at the always interesting nonprofit gallery New Langton Arts (1246 Folsom St.) *Stranger Than You* (and its counterpart *Even More Stranger Than You* at the Cartoon Art Museum on Mission St.) features the work of the blatantly

page 48 ►

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# An unlikely star

## All about Bette Davis

by Tavo Amador

No star of classic Hollywood equaled Bette Davis for controversy. The self-proclaimed anti-glamour queen, admittedly not conventionally attractive, ignited heated opinions about her acting. At her best, Davis' brazen intensity mesmerizes. Otherwise, she's hilariously baroque. The last decades of her career featured self-parody, making her an idol to generations of gay men and nightclub comics. She rarely bored and, as in *All About Eve* (1950), playing the Castro Theatre February 9-15, she could dominate the screen.

Born (1908) Ruth Elizabeth Davis into genteel poverty in Massachusetts, her mother pushed her into acting. She worked in openly gay George Cukor's Rochester, New York stock company for one season be-

fore hitting Broadway in *Broken Dishes* and *The Solid South*. Samuel Goldwyn tested and rejected her, but Universal made her *Strictly Dishonorable* (1930), although lamenting her lack of sex appeal, confirming her fears about Tinseltown's obsession with photogenic beauties like Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford and Marlene Dietrich.

She had bits in *Bad Sister*, *Seed*, and *Waterloo Bridge* (1931), then bigger parts in *Way Back Home* and *The Menace*, but Universal dropped her. For Capital, she went to *Hell's House*, but George Arliss featured her in *The Man Who Played God*, leading to a Warners contact. She supported Barbara Stanwyck in *So Big*, realized *The Rich Are Always with Us*, rode *The Dark Horse* and visited *Cabin in the Cotton*, her first as a bitch (1932).

In 1933, she struck *Three on a Match*, spent 20,000 Years in *Sing*

*Sing* with Spencer Tracy, met a Parachute Jumper and *The Working Man*. Next year she was an *Ex-Lady*, visited the Bureau of Missing Persons, modeled *Fashions of 1934* (with William Powell), felt *The Big Shakedown*, supported James Cagney's *Jimmy the Gent*, watched *Fog over Frisco*, before gay director John Cromwell at RKO borrowed her for Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage*. As the vicious waitress tormenting Leslie Howard, Davis scored. Critics hailed her blistering bitch. An outcry arose when she failed to get an Oscar nomination, so for the only time in history, write-in votes were allowed, although official nominee Claudette Colbert won for *It Happened One Night*.

She refused *The Case of the Howling Dog*, but in 1935 played *Housewife* and committed murder in *Bordertown*. She was *The Girl from Tenth Avenue*, *Front Page Woman*, and *A Special Agent*, before becoming *Dangerous* as an alcoholic actress, winning the Oscar, consolation for *Bondage*.

### Front page woman

In 1936, she met Howard in *The Petrified Forest*, notable for Humphrey Bogart's gangster, then made *Golden Arrow* and *Satan Met a Lady*. She rejected worse scripts, and Warners suspended her. She sued in Britain, lost, but returned to better stories in 1937: as Bogart's *Marked Woman*, Edward G. Robinson's moll in *Kid Galahad*, and as Henry Fonda's *That Certain Woman*. She was funny telling Howard *It's Love I'm After*.

Her glory period began as William Wyler's *Jezebel* (1938), winning another Oscar, dazzling as a headstrong ante-bellum belle passionate about Fonda. In 1939, she was one of *The Sisters with Errol Flynn* and had an Oscar-nominated *Dark Victory*, as a doomed, spoiled socialite redeemed by love. She played mad Empress Carlotta to Paul Muni's Juarez and was *The Old Maid*, stolen by Miriam Hopkins. She and Flynn were *Elizabeth and Essex*; she was excellent as England's queen and hit the Top Ten box-office stars.

In 1940, she and Charles Boyer enjoyed *All This and Heaven Too*, but she should have played the selfish duchess, not the noble governess. She wrote Wyler's *The Letter*, brilliant as a murdering adulteress, earning another Oscar nomination. She told *The Great Lie*, and with Cagney did a comedy, *The Bride Came C.O.D.*, both 1941. Goldwyn borrowed her for Wyler's *The Little Foxes* (1942), capturing Regina's rapaciousness, but neglecting her charm. Still, another Oscar nomination resulted. She was self-effacing in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a comedy stolen by Monty Woolley and Ann Sheridan, then cheated with sister Olivia de Havilland's husband in *In This Our Life*. She was splendid in 1943's *Now, Voyager*, going from duckling to swan and being romanced by Paul Henreid.



Bette Davis in 1939: She played a doomed, spoiled socialite redeemed by love.

A ridiculous movie, but compulsively watchable. She played herself in *Thank Your Lucky Stars*, then joined the *Watch on the Rhine*.

She slapped Hopkins in *Old Acquaintance* (1944) before marrying Claude Rains' *Mr. Skeffington*, a silly story about an aging beauty, which garnered another Oscar nod. She played herself in *Hollywood Canteen*, comforting American soldiers.

### Challenged

Because male stars dominated at Warners, she had no serious challengers as First Lady until 1943, when Crawford arrived after 18 years at MGM. In 1945, Davis refused *Mildred Pierce*, which won Crawford an Oscar, and instead was noble in *The Corn Is Green*. She played twins living *A Stolen Life*, committed *Deception* (and murder) with Henreid and Rains (1946), before going to 1948's *Winter Meeting* and becoming a *June Bride*. Only the last did well, while Crawford had several hits. When Davis heard she wanted *Beyond the Forest* (1949), she insisted on playing Rosa Moline, "a 12 o'clock girl in a 9 o'clock town," a film that defines camp and contains one of Davis' worst, most entertaining performances. (Edward Albee immortalized her "What a dump!" line in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) She demanded and obtained a release from her contract.

RKO offered *Payment on Demand* (1950), and she replaced an injured Colbert in Joseph L. Mankiewicz' *All About Eve*, resurrecting her career. Davis is sensational, although it's hard to believe Anne Baxter could threaten her. She won the New York Film Critics Best Actress prize and scored her eighth Oscar nomination, losing to Judy Holliday in *Born Yesterday*.

She took *Another Man's Poison* (1951), had a supporting role answering a *Phone Call From a Stranger*, then parodied Crawford in *The Star* (both 1952), garnering her ninth Oscar nod. (Purred Crawford, "It couldn't possibly be me. Bette looked so old, and so dreadfully overweight.") She then starred in a revue, *Two's Company*. In 1955, she was *The Virgin Queen*, but her superb Elizabeth was secondary to Joan Collins' part. She issued a *Storm Warning* and played Debbie Reynolds' mother wanting *A Catered Affair* (1956). In 1959 she guested as Catherine the Great in *John Paul*

Jones and saw her part as Alec Guinness' mother in *The Scapegoat* shredded.

On Broadway, she created Maxine in Tennessee Williams' *The Night of the Iguana*, but was too old for the part. Back in Hollywood, she wept as Apple Annie in *Pocketful of Miracles* (1961), before joining Crawford for *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962). Their pairing was a smash, earning Davis her tenth and final Oscar nomination, which she lost to Anne Bancroft. She wrote an intelligent autobiography, *The Lonely Life*.

### Evil nanny

Davis played twins in the well-plotted *Dead Ringer* and Susan Hayward's mother in *Where Love Has Gone*, one of the worst (and campiest) films ever made. Also in 1964, she and Crawford announced a re-teaming in *Hush*, *Hush*, *Sweet Charlotte*, Davis agreeing to second billing. Crawford, overwhelmed by Davis' harassment, became ill, and de Havilland replaced her; *Charlotte* did not do as well as *Jane*. Davis was evil as *The Nanny* (1965), then played a monstrous, eye-patch-wearing mother in the ghastly *The Anniversary* (1967). In 1970, she and Michael Redgrave shared *Connecting Rooms*.

She was Bunny O'Hare, a motorbike-riding hippie (1971), had *Burnt Offerings* (1976), was terrific bitching Maggie Smith in *Death on the Nile*, and made *Return from Witch Mountain* (both 1978). She appeared in *Watcher in the Woods* (1980), and had her last starring role watching *The Whales of August* with Lillian Gish and scene-stealing Ann Sothern, before becoming *The Wicked Stepmother* (both 1987), an unworthy farewell.

Davis worked regularly on television, and in 1977 was the American Film Institute's first woman lifetime achievement award recipient, accepting it after Katharine Hepburn and Ingrid Bergman declined. Widowed once, she divorced three husbands, the last her Eve co-star Gary Merrill. In 1985, her daughter published *My Mother's Keeper*, painting her as an abusive alcoholic, charges Davis denied before dying of cancer in 1989.

She was unique and unforgettable. When the AFI announced its top 25 stars of the century, Davis finished second to Hepburn among women, a judgment she would have disputed. ▼

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# Eternal phoenix

## Elizabeth Taylor's storied career

by Tavo Amador

Once labeled "the most beautiful woman in the world," she's called herself "Mother Courage," survived seven marriages, two major scandals, countless surgeries and near-death experiences; earned record sums; overcame drug and alcohol addiction; fought obesity, tackled AIDS and homophobia; won two Best Actress Oscars, amassed a legendary jewelry collection, launched a successful line of fragrances; and, after a 7-year professional hiatus, Dame Elizabeth Taylor is starring with Debbie Reynolds, Shirley MacLaine and Joan Collins in *These Old Broads*, airing on Monday, February 12, 9 p.m. on ABC.

Born Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor (1932) in London to American parents, she moved to Southern California shortly before World War II. Her father, a successful art dealer, and her mother, who had a brief stage career, pushed the beautiful child into acting. (Taylor's older brother resisted by shaving his head before a scheduled screen test.) She debuted for Universal in *There's One Born Every Minute* (1942), but they dropped her. For MGM she made *Lassie Come Home* (1943), becoming lifelong friends with star Roddy McDowell, her first intense relationship with a homosexual. She appeared in *The White Cliffs of Dover* and *Jane Eyre* (both 1944) before reaching stardom in the smash *National Velvet* (1945), flawless as the English girl longing to race her horse.

She played beautiful teenagers in *Courage of Lassie* (1946), *Life with Father* and *Cynthia* (1947), *A Date with Judy* and *Julia Misbehaves* (1948), was Amy in *Little Women*, before her first adult role, Robert Taylor's wife in *The Conspirator* (1949). In 1950, she faced *The Big Hangover* before charming audiences as Spencer Tracy's daughter in Vincent Minnelli's hit comedy *Father of the Bride*, and its sequel, *Father's Little Dividend* (1951). That same year she earned raves as the rich girl in love with Montgomery Clift in George Stevens' *A Place in the Sun*. She and the homosexual Clift became intimates.

### Beau stuck

Taylor was a ravishing Rebecca in the lively *Ivanhoe*, losing Robert Taylor to Joan Fontaine; and believed *Love Is Better than Ever* (1952). In 1954, she was *The Girl Who Had Everything*, enjoyed a lush *Rhapsody*, replaced Vivien Leigh in *Elephant Walk*, was good for Richard Brooks in *The Last Time I Saw Paris*, then was stuck in *Beau Brummell*. Stevens borrowed her for *Giant* (1956), a fine performance. During filming, she became good friends with her co-stars, the gay Rock Hudson and the bisexual James Dean, who died in a car crash shortly before finishing the movie.

She earned an Oscar nomination for *Raintree County* (1957) as the Southern belle who steals Clift from Eva-Marie Saint and goes mad, fearing she has black blood. Like *Giant*, it was a smash. In 1958, she entered the Top 10 box office, where she stayed for a decade, with another hit, Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* directed by Brooks, scoring a second Oscar nomination. The

gay playwright and most critics praised her performance. She was sensational for Joseph L. Mankiewicz in Williams' *Suddenly Last Summer* (1959), garnering a third Academy Award nomination, battling the equally superb Katharine Hepburn. This, too, did big business.

She owed MGM a final film; they insisted on *Butterfield 8* (1960), which she hated. But she was excellent as "the slut of all time," finally winning the Oscar; it made a mint. Twentieth Century Fox offered \$1 million plus a percentage of the gross for her *Cleopatra* (1963). Her near-fatal illness delayed shooting, causing the original co-stars, Peter Finch and Stephen Boyd, to be replaced by Rex Harrison and Richard Burton.

Her marriages to hotel heir Nicky Hilton and British actor Michael Wilding (two sons) resulted in divorces. Her third, to producer Mike Todd (a daughter), ended tragically: he was killed when their private plane, *The Lucky Liz*, crashed. Her affair with singer Eddie Fisher, who divorced Reynolds to marry her, resulted in tremendous notoriety, but nothing like what ensued when she left him for the married Burton while filming *Cleopatra*. He, too, divorced his wife to wed her. She was competent in the lavish movie, which eventually recouped its huge costs.

She and Burton were *The VIPs* (1963), a popular twist on *Grand Hotel* set in an airport. They starred in Minnelli's dreadful *The Sandpiper* (1965) — he's a minister who leaves his wife for Taylor's free-spirit artist. But 1966's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, directed by Mike Nichols from Edward Albee's play, drew raves, bringing a second Oscar and a New York Film Critics Best Actress prize. The story of an unhappy couple held together by anger and alcohol shocked audiences, but made a fortune. The Burtons then starred in Franco Zeffirelli's ravishing *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967), another hit.

### Golden eye

She excelled in John Huston's exquisite *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (1967), billed over Marlon Brando, but the film about latent homosexuality and murder had disappointing grosses. The next batch flopped: *Dr. Faustus* and *The Comedians* (1967), *Boom!* (1968), all with Burton; *Secret Ceremony* (1968) with Mia Farrow and Robert Mitchum; *The Only Game in Town* (1970) with Warren Beatty; excellent in *X, Y, and Zee*, bedding husband Michael Caine's mistress; as a waitress (!) with Burton in *Hammersmith Is Out* (both 1972); with him in television's *Divorce His, Divorce Hers; Night Watch*, a thriller, *Ash Wednesday*, as a woman undergoing plastic surgery to win back husband Henry Fonda, a guilty pleasure (all 1973); the incomprehensible *The Driver's Seat*, reminiscing about MGM in the successful *That's Entertainment!*, (both 1974); a cameo in *Victory at Entebbe*, multiple roles in George Cukor's Russian-American disaster, *The Blue Bird* (both 1976); charming in *A Little Night Music* (1977).

Divorced from Burton, she appeared on television in *Return Engagement* (1978), filmed *Winter Kills* (1979), replaced Natalie

Wood in Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd* (1980), and did more television: *Between Friends* with Carol Burnett (1983), splendid as Louella Parsons in *Malice In Wonderland*, as a Madam in *North and South* (both 1985), *There Must Be a Pony* (1986), lovely as *Poker Alice* (1987), and disappointing in Nicholas Roeg's misguided version of Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1989). In 1988, she made Zeffirelli's unreleased *Young Toscanini*. She had an amusing cameo in the popular *The Flintstones* (1994), her last film to date.

In 1981, she starred on Broadway in *The Little Foxes*, earning a Tony nomination. She and Burton appeared in New York in *Private Lives*, to bad notices and big grosses. She married and divorced US Senator John Warner, then wed and divorced construction worker Larry Fortensky, whom she met at the Betty Ford Clinic.

Outraged over the silence surrounding AIDS, which killed Hudson, in 1985 she founded the American Foundation for AIDS Research, and, later, the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, raising millions to fight the disease. In 1993, she received the Jean Hersholt Academy Award for her humanitarian work and the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award.

She is the last star of old Hollywood. Let's hope *Broads* signals a sustained return to acting. ▼

Elizabeth Taylor in John Huston's *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, 1967

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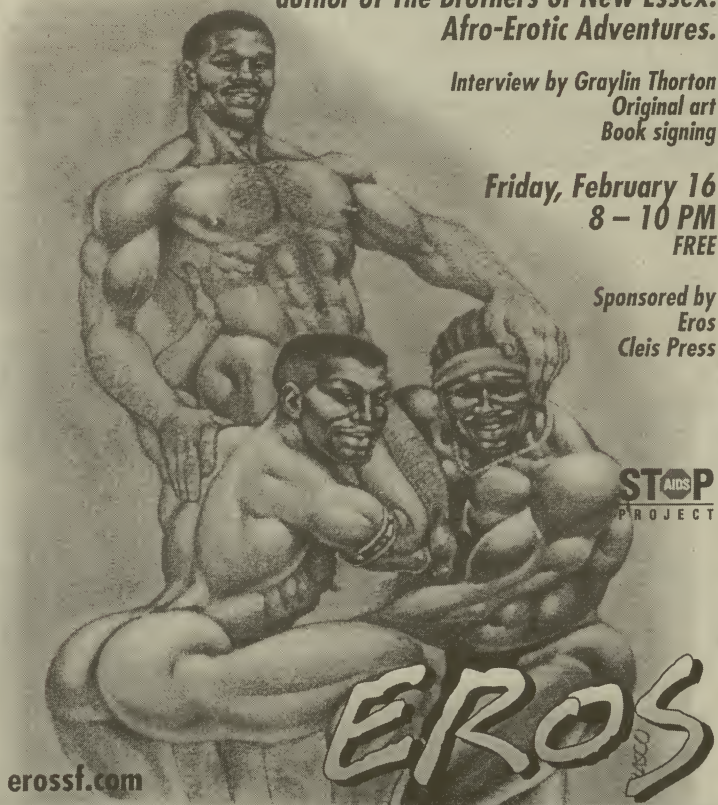
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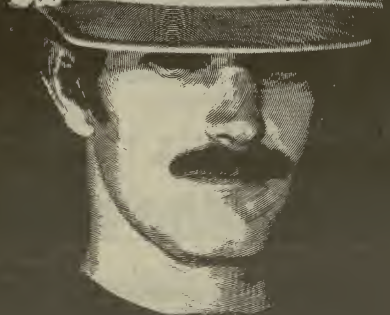
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# Party cake

## Early in SF Ballet season

by Stephanie von Buchau

It is usually futile to speculate on career choices, but I'd love to know what is going on with San Francisco Ballet's Yuri Possokhov. Long one of the company's tallest, handsomest dancers, Possokhov is also intelligent, thoughtful and musical.

As he grows older, it is obvious that the callow heroes of *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* no longer appeal to him, if they ever did. He excels in modern ballet — his work in last season's *Symphony in Three Movements* might have been his best ever — and he's an entertaining choreographer; *Magritomania*, last season's hit, repeats in April.

Yet Possokhov has also started "doing a Baryshnikov" — that is, indulging himself in pretentious solos, often with props or actual musicians on stage. I suspect that when Misha does these things — and I almost never like them — people are happy because it is Baryshnikov they are seeing, not the choreography.

Possokhov, multi-talented as he is, is no Baryshnikov, yet so far this early season, he has danced two such solos. On last month's gala, the work was *Revelation*, set by Motoko Hirayama to music of John Williams from the film *Schindler's List*. Never mind the inherent tastelessness of this project, the movement itself reminded me of a university dance class I took in the late '50s titled "Choreobiography."

The boys, all of them gay of course, were prone to creating dances of agonized torso contractions and self-pitying head-clutching. It was great therapy, especially in those miserable dark days of "the love that dares not speak its name," but today it is an artistic dead end.

At least Jerome Robbins' *A Suite of Dances*, made for Misha in 1994 and seen on Program II, employs real music, though I don't enjoy hearing excerpts from Bach's Solo Cello Suites played out of order.

Poor Possokhov, right in the middle of the final movement last Friday, the fire alarm went off in the War Memorial. As half the crowd filed obediently out, the other half remained, cheering hysterically. Sorry, but if I am going to die in a theater fire, I'd like it to be to less tedious choreography.

### By the slice

Another oddball number — Hans van Manen's *Black Cake* — opened the gala and reappeared on Program I, surrounded by Christopher Wheeldon's *Sea Pictures* and Helgi Tomasson's *Prism*. I haven't seen the latter yet because there is no way I'd ever sit through *Sea Pictures* again (it trashes one of my all-time favorite song cycles), and one slice of *Black Cake* gave me musical indigestion.

To be fair to van Manen, this 1989 ballet is a *pièce d'occasion*, made for the 30th anniversary of Nederlands Dans Theatre. Cool. As a celebration it has a certain temporal, humorous, erotic charm. It is not, however, choreographically inspired, and the musical jokes are too heavy-handed for my taste. (At least I hope they are jokes.)

Van Manen conjures a sophisticated group of partygoers, the girls dressed in Keso Dekker's drop-dead chic black frocks and high heels, the boys in filmy, see-thru trousers. Every butt waggle was an event more thrilling than the actual choreography.

A rigid ensemble dances to the manic march from Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony, demonstrating how uptight this society is. The big joke is that the audience always applauds after this music in the concert hall, ruining the introduction to the finer adagio. Here the applause is welcome, even mandatory.

Then van Manen breaks the group into couples for some relationship therapy. Lorena Feijoo and Roman Rykine, main squeezes off-stage as well, dance passionately to Janacek's "Adagio," pushing and shoving each other a little more than is seemly.

Possokhov and delicious Julia Adam are the antic lovers of Stravinsky's "Scherzo à la russe." She makes him cavort on all fours like a dog; he bounces her like a basketball. The final couple, Lucia Lacarra and Stephen Legate, suffer operatically to the "Intermezzo" from Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz*.

The finale, in which the entire company staggers around drunk, is set to the "Meditation" from Massenet's *Thais*, handsomely played by concertmaster Roy Malan. As a friend put it, "Gee, all of my least favorite pieces of shock music together at last."

Music was also a problem with Val Caniparoli's *Death of a Moth*, given its world premiere last Fri-



From van Manen's *Black Cake*

day on Program II. It may just be my taste clashing with his, but I frequently part company with Caniparoli's musical choices, in this case Carlos Surinach's frenetic Concerto for String Orchestra. If you are not familiar with the mid-century Spanish composer, think Bartok or Stravinsky without the tunes and genius.

The ballet orchestra under Emil de Cou played this noisy, hectic, exhausting piece spectacularly, and you could see how it gave rise to images of moths helplessly fluttering themselves to death on window panes and candle flames. Sandra Woodall's iridescent skirts were used by Caniparoli in lifts to create voluminous, even ominous choreographic shapes.

But I didn't understand the scenario — if there wasn't one, what was all that stuff on the backdrops, strobe lights and falling bodies? And the movement in this 27-minute piece was strenuous and repetitive without ever paying off emotionally. The harder the dancers worked, the less I cared.

Yet SFB's dancers do work hard, and some of them have been radiant so far. Tina LeBlanc's blinding speed in *Stars and Stripes* and *Vertiginous Thrill*; Feijoo's amazing adaptability (here is a Bolshoi bravura-style ballerina, fitting comfortably into the ensemble without losing an ounce of stage charisma); Damian Smith and Gonzalo Garcia imparting their customary urgent masculinity to everything they touch; and Guennadi Nedviguine, rightly promoted to principal dancer, snapping off *pirouettes à la seconde*, all helped make up for the absence of Joanna Berman and Yuan Yuan Tan, both out with injuries. The season has just begun, and it looks like it can only get better. ▼

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Billy Hart  
photo by Kent Taylor



## MUSIC

# Dimming at Davies

Guest maestros bring the room down

by Philip Campbell

The California energy crisis has finally hit Davies Symphony Hall. After the excessive use of voltage during the holiday season and the high-tech presentation of John Adams' mixed-media *El Niño* in January, patrons were greeted last week with notices in the lobby explaining that the lights had been dimmed for conservation purposes. That still couldn't account for the noticeable lack of power on-stage in recent weeks. While several guest conductors tried bravely to generate some of the usual excitement, the lack of Michael Tilson Thomas and his own patented electricity was sorely felt.

Despite the decrease of wattage on the podium, there were some truly memorable moments supplied by three guesting musical performers. Violinist Viktoria Mullova returned after too long an absence with a new look and demeanor; pianist Max Levinson made a praiseworthy San Francisco Symphony debut; and beloved violinist Itzhak Perlman tried to wear two hats, as instrumentalist (admirably, as expected) and conductor (surprisingly mediocre).

Conductor David Robertson made his SFS debut in 1997, and he is a welcome addition to the rotating roster, but his physical energy still can't elicit the same level of playing from the musicians that they give so readily to MTT. His Mozart Symphony No. 31 in D major, *Paris*, was his best effort in a program that had a vague underlying theme, tying all the works on the bill to the City of Light. His dapper presence was easily eclipsed by the striking and gifted Mullova.

After a splashy start and lots of press in the early '90s, Mullova has sort of slipped from view. She still records and has fans in Europe, but her career in the States has dimmed. With her formerly light hair a more natural ash, and a

goofy costume — half evening pants and half evening gown — she certainly made a strong entrance.

I remember her taking the varnish off the Sibelius Violin Concerto 10 years ago, and was eagerly anticipating what she would make of Stravinsky's marvelous essay in the genre. Her technique remains impressive, and the tone is bright and pitch-perfect. Her timing missed some of the glittering punchlines in Stravinsky's witty score, but the lean clarity of her playing was wonderful in the central arias, and her rather nonchalant poutiness added visual appeal. Maybe a little Kennedy-like attitude (the Brit superstar) will jolt her back into the limelight where she belongs.

## Shy guy

Twenty-eight-year-old pianist Max Levinson is the physical antithesis of Mullova. Small, dark and boyishly handsome, he displays a charmingly shy stage presence. He needn't worry about being noticed, for he obviously has the necessary talent for an impressive solo career. The choice of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor was a good one. The lively, compact and typically melodious concerto was reportedly not one of the composer's favorites, but it is a real crowd-pleaser and never outstays its welcome.

The young pianist's performance was perfectly in tune with the spirit and demands of the score. The passagework was clean and nimbly executed, and Levinson managed to convey the message of the composer and, perhaps, himself. That is to say — we're not bragging, but look what we can do.

The conductor that night was Alasdair Neale, the Symphony's Associate Conductor since 1992. He is also the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the SFS Youth Orchestra, and he will be moving on, after this season, to an increasing number of guest-conducting



Conductor Alasdair Neale

gigs around the world. He has always worked well here, but he sometimes bites off a bit more than he can chew, and the second half of the recent concert was a case in point.

Edward Elgar's Symphony No. 2 in E-flat major is a big, sprawling and noble work that demands a lot of effort from players and listeners alike. Neale was brave to attempt this long and moody piece, but the results were tiring. It doesn't help that Elgar builds so many thrilling climaxes and then ends on a reflective note. There is so much that is beautiful in the score, but it does go on (and on). The conductor almost managed to tighten the work, but the audience was unmoved, and I was glad to hit the invigorating night air myself.

## No rest

Itzhak Perlman needs no introduction here, and he certainly didn't need one for the packed house which greeted him fondly last week. His accomplishments are internationally known, and his recorded performances alone would assure him everlasting fame. Still, at 56 he is not content

page 41 ►

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# OUT&ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Huisman

### Queer civil rights

Looking natty in his plaid sport jacket, leopard print hat, bright shirt and tie, *In The Life (ITL)* guest host RuPaul Andre Charles welcomes us to an hour-long exploration of African-American queers and their contribution to our culture and history. Charles may identify with *ITL*'s subjects "as a brown-skinned person," but whether or not you're brown-skinned is entirely irrelevant: This *ITL* is important queer history, and all of us need to know it.

First up is a brief examination of Martin Luther King's associate Bayard Rustin, who was pushed out of the civil rights movement because of his homosexuality. Rustin was recently honored by an Atlanta rally organized by Charlene Cothran.

"It's very important, particularly here in the south, that the gay and lesbian movement be a part of the Civil Rights movement," Cothran says, "and, more specifically, the African-American gay and lesbian community take homage of Bayard Rustin for being an out black gay man in the '40s. We need that as a positive role model to help break up the silence."

Fast forward to today, with *ITL*'s story about Keith Boykin, former head of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. After college and law school, Boykin worked in several presidential campaigns and the Clinton White House, where he helped with the historic presidential meeting with national gay and lesbian leaders. Despite such accomplishments, Boykin struggles with which element of his identity should come first, race or sexuality?

"It's important not to fall into the trap of creating a hierarchy where one part of your identity becomes more important than another," Boykin says. He recalls Mel Booser, who said, "I've been called a nigger and I've been called a faggot. And I can sum up the difference in one word: none."

For his upcoming book, *One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in America* (to be published later this year), Boykin attempts to chronicle the experience of being black and gay. The results of his research, in which he spoke to both straights and gays, surprised him.

"I learned that black people are not as homophobic as most people seem to think they are," Boykin says with a smile. "They are in fact less homophobic than other communities." Boykin believes those impressions of black homophobia stem from the beliefs of specific individuals, including Rev. Louis Farrakhan. Boykin and the NBGLF called for gay black men to join the Million Man March, a presence that was ignored by the mainstream media, which regularly played up Farrakhan's anti-Semitism and misogyny but seldom his homophobia. The segment's conclusion features Jonathan Atkin's celebratory photo essay of gay men at the march.

The segment about Rev. Irene Monroe focuses on her relationship with Thea L. James, M.D. This material deeply personalizes Monroe's already moving story — she was abandoned as a baby and raised by nuns — and makes *ITL*'s examination of Monroe's studies at Harvard Divinity School an even more fascinating study.

James Baldwin biographer Randall Kenan discusses the importance of the author's celebrated *Giovanni's Room*, which contains one of the most important depictions of same-sex romance in the American literary canon.

"I don't think a lot of people realize how significant [the publication of *Giovanni's Room*] was," Kenan says. "It was the late 1950s, and not too many people had published works about same-sex love. For Baldwin to do it in only his second book was a very bold and brave act."

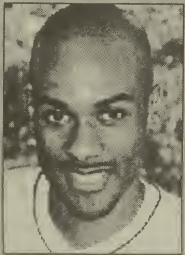
Baldwin was scheduled to speak at the original civil rights march organized by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Leadership Conference. But the SLC's "very homophobic" leadership would eventually deny him his chance to participate in the very event he helped create.

"At the last minute, they refused to let Baldwin speak on stage," Kenan says, "which I think is one of America's greatest losses."

*ITL* turns its attention to HIV prevention and education efforts in black communities in two stories, a brief mention of Balm in Gilead, a national organization that works to stop AIDS through a presence in black churches, and a longer piece about Chicago activists battling the rise of transmission among black gay men. With the release of a recent New York City Department of Health study that found nearly one-third of black gay youth in NYC are already infected, this segment's timing is horrifyingly perfect.

Michelle Lopez is an HIV-positive lesbian mother of two children, 14-year-old Rondell and 11-year-old Raven, who is also HIV-positive. By day, Lopez works as an HIV peer educator in the Bronx. But her entire life personifies the struggle of being a single mom with HIV: "We run around, take care of the household and everyone else," Lopez sighs, "but we neglect ourselves." ▼

*In the Life* airs on KQED-TV, Channel 9, on Thurs., Feb. 15 at 11 p.m.



Keith Boykin



Michi Barali and Dena Martinez play in Diana Son's *Stop Kiss* at Brava Theater Center. See Saturday.

## Fri 9

### Theatre on the Square

Marga Gomez, Vicki Lawrence and Rita Moreno star in Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," giving voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous human stories. The casting includes San Francisco's premiere lesbian comic (Gomez); the Emmy winner who made her name on "The Carol Burnett Show" (Lawrence); and the Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy award-winning performer who shot to stardom with *West Side Story* (Moreno). \$35-\$50. 8:30pm (showtimes vary other nights). 450 Post St. Info/tix: 433-9500; www.theatreonthesquare.com

### Luna Sea Theater

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project presents "Chutzpah: Homeland A Queer Jewish Show," directed by Kira Simring. Featuring a transguy, two Jewish dykes, two men in drag, and a few queer friends. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Also on Feb. 10, 2940 16th St. Reservations: 863-2989.

### Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Opening party: "Try This On!" Five shows look at ideas about the creation of personal and social identity. Are you in control of the way you look? Have you ever longed for a makeover? Can beauty be repulsive, repressive or sick? Featuring works by the French duo Pierre et Gilles (hand-painted photographs that explore ideals of beauty, combining kitsch with imagery from popular culture), Laylah Ali and Paintings from the Greenheads Serie (masked cartoon-like characters who subvert narrative expectations), Nikiki S. Lee and The Skateboarders Project, German Indians (the photography of Andrea Robbins and Max Becher, who examine the creation of alternate cultural identity as a means of addressing the past); and Cameron Jamie: Backyard Wrestling and Other Project (an LA-based artist's take on a form of urban theater involving what many call "complex construction of persona." \$12. 8-11pm. Grand Lobby. Info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

### ODC Theater

Cultural Odyssey & ODC Theater present "Underground Jazz Cabaret," hosted by Idris Ackamoor & Rhodessa Jones. Tonight featuring international jazz legend and tenor saxophonist John Tchicai, local Bay Area treasure violinist India Cooke, jazz pianist and

drummer Frederick Harris, dance phenomenon and choreographer Robert Henry Johnson, theater diva Rhodessa Jones, Destiny the Harpist and vocalist Daria Nile. (Tomorrow night: "New Cuban Jazz" composer/pianist Omar Sosa with percussionist Eliot Humberto Kavee). \$12 gen'l; \$15 reserved. 8pm. Also on Feb. 10. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odcdance.org/theater

### Old First Church

Old First Concerts and the Chopin Foundation Council of SF present Hiroko Kunitake performing the "Annular Chopin's Birthday Recital." Featuring Chopin's Ballade in G minor, Three Mazurkas from Opus 59, the Valse in E-flat Major, the Andante Spianato Grande Polonaise Brillante, and the Sonata in B minor. \$9 (\$7 seniors/students). 8pm. 1751 Sacramento St. (at Van Ness). Tix/info: 474-1608; www.oldfirstconcerts.org

### Jezebel's Joint

Absolutely Ambiguous Productions presents "The Fencesitters Winter Ball," a bi dance party featuring DJ Kelli (Release/Wet) and a special performance by The Nice Nasty Team: Snatch and Candidate for Empress Chablis. The Fencesitters Ball is the only quarterly event in the city that brings together bisexuals from all over the Bay Area. \$10 (Threesome Special: one of three gets in free). 9pm-2am. 21+ w/d. 510 Larkin St. Info: 707-2876.

## Sat 10

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for an Almaden Quicksilver County Park hike and enjoy the oak forests and open grassy hillsides with views of the Santa Cruz and Diablo ranges. It's a moderately strenuous 10-11 mile hike with a 1,600-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

### Heron's Head Park

Park Naturalist Patrick Rump will lead a walk around this 25-acre park and tidal salt marsh, discussing current and past restoration efforts. We will identify more than 12 different species of migrating birds, including snowy egrets, western sandpipers, killdeer, great egrets, American avocets, buffleheads, western grebes, great blue herons and brown pelicans.

Presented by the Neighborhood Parks Council. Free. 9-10:30am. Meet at the end of Cargo Way (left off 3rd St., just south of Islais Creek). Some binoculars and field guides provided, but bring yours if possible. Info/registration (optional): 621-3260.

### Brava Theater Center

Opening night: Diana Son's "Stop Kiss," directed by Loy Arcenas, a play that tells the story of Sara (Dena Martinez) and Callie (Michi Barali), two "straight" girls in their late 20s who are the last to realize they are falling in love. The two women finally kiss, but what happens after the kiss is the heart of this tale about love in a hostile landscape. Presented in association with Theater Rhinoceros. \$24-\$30. 8pm. Thru March 11. Located at 2787 24th St. (at York). Tix/info: 392-4400; www.brava.org

### San Leandro Community Church

Lavender Seniors, a group for Gays, Lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55 hold their monthly potluck at noon. The group is seeking volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. 1395 Bancroft Ave. Info/rides from BART station: (510) 667-9655.

### First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra places its Philharmonia Choral center stage for a program including Purcell's Birthday Ode for Queen Mary, Rameau's Grand Motet In convertendo Dominus, and Campra's Requiem. Conducted by Nicholas McGegan. \$32-\$46. 8pm. Also Feb 11 at 7:30pm. Located at Dana & Durant streets, Berkeley. Tix/info: 392-4400; www.philharmonia.org

### Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Andy Warhol's Factory comes to life in the screening room with the showing of the long-unseen, recently restored films *Couch* (1964, 52 min., 16mm) and *Sunset* (1967, 33 min., 16mm). Using a fixed camera and long take, *Couch* depicts a succession of visitors in various social and explicitly sexual scenarios on the Factory sofa. Starring Gerard Malanga, Jack Kerouac, Gregory Corso, Allen Ginsberg, Ondine, Peter Orlovski, Taylor Mead, Billy Linch and Baby Jane Holzer. *Sunset* records a beautiful California sunset. \$6 (\$3 center members, students, seniors). 8pm. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-ARTS; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

### Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

"The 8th International Gay & Lesbian 2001 Business and Entertainment Expo," produced by the RDP Group, "producers of total marketing concepts." With a host of businesses marketing to the GLBT community, plus entertainment presented over by MC Kerry Adair. Featuring fashion shows, a dance party, and performances by Doug Stevens & The Outband, Mark Weigle, Doug Holclaw, the drag queens of Transshack, i.e., Blue Period, and many others. Plus a live Commitment Ceremony and special appearance by Mayor Willie Brown. Free. 12 noon-7pm. Also on Feb. 11, noon-6pm. Civic Center. Info: www.gaylesbianbusinessexpo.com

### Live Art Gallery

Opening reception: "The Black Paintings: A failure of rational thought," a new series by Mission District artist Tom Fowler. His imagery addresses the failure of humanity to rise above base instincts to a more highly-evolved spiritual plane. Ten percent of all sales will benefit Rock Out SF and Save Local Music in support of the survival fund for SF music rehearsal space. Featuring live bands. Free. 6pm-12am. 151 Potrero Ave (at 15th St.). Info: 695-0119.

### Aunt Charlie's Lounge

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," an exciting drag cabaret hosted every Saturday night by Kristy Cruise, Grand Duchess XXVI of San Francisco. Never a cover. Shows at 10pm & midnight. 133 Turk St. (at Taylor). Info: 441-2922; www.sfdrag.com

## Sun 11

### Palace of the Legion of Honor

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Fran-



cisco, directed by Michael Carlson, performs a selection of choral music ranging from Handel's lilting 1736 *Your Voices Tune* to the amusing modern arrangement *Of Crows and Clusters*, based on Harlem Renaissance poet Vachel Lindsay's *Two Old Crows*. Also presenting composer Robert Seely's "With One Voice," dedicated to and inspired by a young prince among Scouts, Steven Cozza, whose determination to challenge the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay men inspires activism and artistic expression. \$12 adv.; \$15 door. 2:30pm. Lincoln Park. Tix at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro St. in SF or Mama Bears Books on Telegraph Ave in Oakland. Info: www.lgcsf.org

#### PFLAG/St. Francis Lutheran Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays presents Bay Area writer Louise Rafkin, who will talk about her book *Different Daughters*, which has helped many parents feel less alone and isolated, and her most recent work *Other People's Dirt*. She is currently working on the third edition of *Different Daughters*. Free. 2-4pm PFLAG Support Group (all welcome); 3-4pm program. 152 Church St. (at Market). Info: 921-8850.

## Mon 12

**Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret**  
QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by Darrick Richardson. Featuring David Guiney, W. Kamau Bell, Julia Jackson, Chantal, Barbee Jean, Nick Leonard, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610.

#### Presidio Chapel

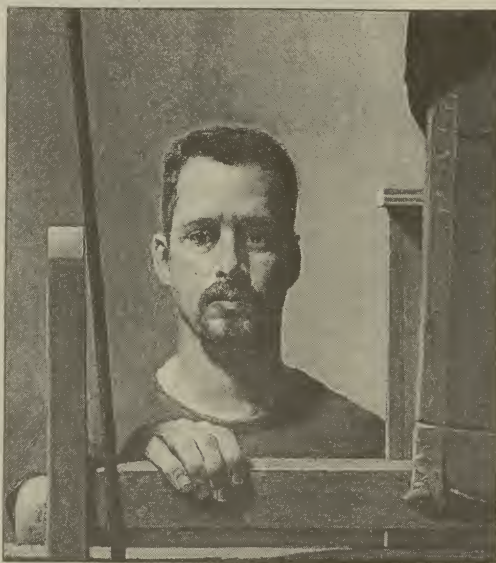
Seth Monfort's Presidio Community Concerts presents an all-Chopin program. Featuring Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Two Nocturnes Opus 27, Scherzo no. 2 in B flat minor, Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante in E Flat, and Ballade no. 1 in G minor. \$10 at door. 8pm. 130 Fisher Loop, Presidio. Info: 362-6080.

#### Herbst Theatre

City Arts & Lectures presents an evening with Edmund White, one of America's great gay novelists and biographers, author of *A Boy's Own Story*, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*, and *The Farewell Symphony*, as well as *Genet: A Biography*. He most recently served as editor of *Loss Within Loss: Artists in the Age of AIDS*. Currently he is professor of creative writing at Princeton University. He'll be interviewed by Scott Shafer. \$17. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Info/tix: 392-4400.

#### 330 Rich St.

"Dirt," a place for rock lovers, boys,



Self Portrait with Easel, oil on canvas, 2000, by John Morra, at John Pence Gallery. See Thursday.

whores, girls, queers, transies, etc. Live rock band TBA. \$7. 10pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. Located off Townsend St. (btwn 3rd & 4th St.).

## Tue 13

#### The Stud

"Trannyshack birthday slut Putanesca puts out for 'Viva La Chola'...Where East meets West!" This tranny travesty leads up to next week's even bigger debacle, the "Trannyshack 5-Year Anniversary," co-hosted by deliciously demented Trannyshack co-founders Heklina and Pippi Lovestocking. With DJ Pinky Ring spinning tranny tunes. Miss Chocolate guards the till and frisks the boys. \$5. 10pm-3am. 9th & Harrison.

## Wed 14

#### Intersection for the Arts

Campo Santo + Intersection with Alma Delfina Group present the world premiere of John Stepping's *Contagion: an american book of the dead*, directed by Sean San José. Seven people who have lived lives of deception, prostitution, pornography and drug abuse struggle from the shadows to put their pasts in order. Featuring Michael Cheng, Nina Gold, Comika Griffin, Steve Marvel, Luis Saguar, Machiko Saito and Paul Santiago. Music by Scheherazade Stone; choreography by Emiko Lewis. \$9-\$15 slid-

ing. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Tix: 626-3311.

## Thu 15

#### Golden Gate University

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom and the National Center for Lesbian Rights present "The Gay 'Cure' Myth," a public forum on the legal aspects and harmful psychological consequences of attempting to "cure" LGBT youth through forced institutionalization. Free. 6-8pm. 536 Mission St.

#### Catharine Clark Gallery

Opening reception: An exhibition of works by 20 artists, 10 of whom have created large-scale projects for the show and 10 of whom have worked within a 10 x 10 (x 10) inch format. Included among the exhibitors is the great queer artist Timothy Cummings, a catalogue of whose work will be released in September for a solo exhibit at Catharine Clark Gallery that month. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St. (2nd floor). Info: 399-1439; www.cclarkgallery.com

#### John Pence Gallery

Opening reception: recent oil paintings by modern realist painter John Morra, working out of New York City. Featuring more than 60 works including still lifes, figures, and landscapes from Spain, Italy and various parts of the U.S. Free. 6-8pm. 750 Post St. Info: 441-1138; www.johnpence.com

#### Venue 222

Opening night: "Sex, Death and Aerobics," edgy comedy by the winners of the New Millennium playwrighting contest, presented by California Travel Troupe in association with Performing Artists Group. Featuring *Prologue* by Alan Fitch, directed by Elaine Jannell; *Aerobasize Queen* by Richard Ciccarone, directed by Denny Thunder; *So Middle Class* by Daniel Curzon, directed by Rachel Rajput; *Thursday Evening* by Linnet Harlan, directed by Vonn Scott Bair; *San Francisco Fever* by Anne Adams, directed by Bert van Aalsburg; and *Stress Test* by Pat Pfeiffer, directed by Dimitrios Ulises Escobar. \$5. 8:30pm. Thru Feb 25. Black Box Theatre, Phelan & Judson (near the Diego Rivera theatre on the City College Campus). Tix: 285-8476.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

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"Katsina style bearded man in terracotta," circa first century B.C., from West Africa, part of the "SF Tribal, Folk & Textile Arts Show" at the Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, opening Thursday, February 8 with a special preview from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$60 (a benefit for the Museum of Craft & Folk Art). Details: 775-0991, ext. 8.





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# Campaigns in the air

by Mister Marcus

Whether any would-be contenders will admit it or not, subtle campaigns are taking place among leather men and women seeking leather titles all across the country. The roster of sashes from coast to coast grows weekly, and while leather title winners are limited to "being seen" and raising money in their own individual bailiwicks (thus establishing a "track record"), they are nevertheless "jockeying for position," so to speak. The IML judges are watching closely to see who emerges from the vast leather population of the world. At the rate these contests are coming up, IML officials are geared to handle close to 70 contestants this year! The judges will be obliged to interview this group in two eight-hour sessions during IML week-end in Chicago.

Not so subtle, as far as campaign tactics go, the local race for emperor and empress of San Francisco kicked off last Saturday night, February 3 at the Imperial Gala held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. It was a great evening at the Gala, and I'm glad I was able to attend. The event was co-chaired by Jason Ladd and Barbie La Choy. Lots of buttons and flyers were seen announcing "appearances" by the candidates who are seeking the titles.

All sorts of tributes took place, and there were showstoppers galore in the way of en-



Bazaar

tertainment. But would you believe, among all the monarchs present, not one crowned head was observed!

A tribute to the memory of the reign of Matthew Brown and Sable Clown was performed by TJ and Sheba, and everybody

who was anybody in the court system performed — but I'll tell you, Ms. Snatch and Jayda kicked ass on that stage.

There are one male and one female each running for emperor: Tom Basch and Ms. Gail Wood; for empress, it's "Chablis" and "Tiger Lily" — so if you believe in any of these four, by all means get out there and vote.

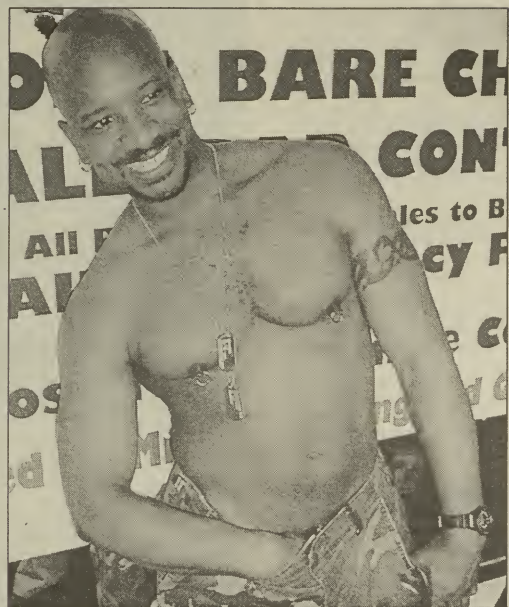
## Recent doings

Earlier in the week, on Thursday, February 1, the contest for Mr. March on the 2002 bare chest calendar took place at Harvey's, with a packed house and five hunks vying for the spot. Judges Donna Sachet, Tom Rodgers and Thom Dombkowski (of Chicago) were joined by SMMILE rep Todd Bauer as the hopefuls did their thing with the MC.

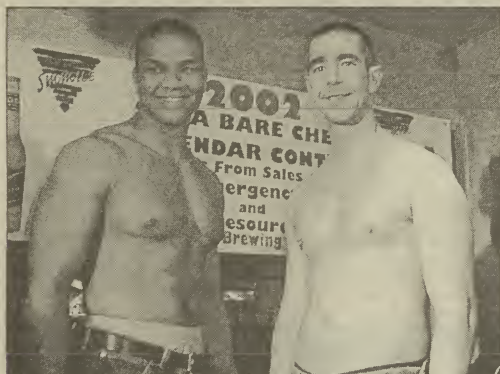
Amusing moments with each contestant occurred throughout. In the end, Enrique Massa captured the Mr. March 2002 spot; a handsome heterosexual dude, Kevin James, emerged the first runner-up.

The 2002 calendar contests resume at the Powerhouse tonight, Thursday, February 8, when the search for Mr. April 2002 begins. Is

next page ►



Tony Smith won the Mr. February 2002 spot on the bare chest calendar at the Powerhouse on Thursday, January 25.



First runner-up Kevin James, left, posed with Enrique Massa, the winner of the Mr. March 2002 bare chest calendar spot last Thursday, February 1 at Harvey's. Mr. April 2002 will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday, February 8 at 9 p.m.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, February 8

Mr. April on the 2002 SOMA Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen tonight at 2100 sharp at the Powerhouse. Judges are AEF VP Glennon Sutter, Mr. Northern CA Drummer Rod Wood, Leather Daddy Keith Truitt, plus a rep from the SMMILE Board. Win \$100, fame, fortune, and become a legend in fundraising.

### Friday, February 9

SF Division of the California B&B Corps gathers for uniform night at the Loading Dock. Look your spiffiest to get the stiffest. It goes from around 2100 'til closing.

The Stop AIDS "Leather-FUCK" series continues with tonight's presentation of "Whip It Real Good," open to all kinky males. It's at 1900 hours at Club Eros.

### Weekend, February 9-11

In Portland, Oregon, it's Leather Uniform Weekend, put on by Uniform Magazine, and Andy Mangels is heading up a myriad of events all over town.

### Saturday, February 10

Bay Area submissives gather from 1300-1500 for one of their secret meetings. For invite/location, call 487-9769 or email: [sflthboy17@aol.com](mailto:sflthboy17@aol.com).

A "Celebration of the life of George Carreras" happens at the top of Buena Vista Park, with a huge motorcycle contingent on hand at 1300. An open mic and celebration party follow immediately at Daddy's.

At the Faultline in Los Angeles, it's the Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear contest, starting at around 2100. The winner goes on to compete for Mr. L.A. Leather on March 24.

### Sunday, February 11

The Golden Gate Guards hold a beer/soda bust at the Lone Star from 1600-2000; for a paltry \$7 you get all the suds you can quaff.

Castro Lions beer/soda bust at the Eagle; an \$8 donation gets you food, drink and the annual Mr. Heart Throb competition. I hope somebody cute wins this year!

Chris Ross presents "Love Your Leathers," a Valentine's Remembrance beer bust to benefit AEF and BCEF, at Daddy's, from 1600-2000, for only \$7.



## POLKSTRASSE

# Lips in the 'hood

by Sweet Lips

The Polkstrasse is a changing neighborhood, and all for the better. The Leland Hotel has almost fully recovered from its tragic fire over two years ago. The street has cleaned up and new people are moving in. Harvey's on Polk will be opening soon, and the old Giraffe will soon be under new ownership. The newer bars on the street, Club Rendez-Vous and Lush Lounge, are safe, comfortable places to have some fun and enjoy entertainment. Quetzal is a popular and hip café hangout. Although some areas of the street still need improving, we are no worse here than in the Castro or South of Market. This historic part of our gay past needs our attention and a second chance from you queens who still think it's a bad neighborhood. Read on to see what's going on.

Last column, I mentioned the opening of Cockatielia's new show *Til Friday* at the Club Rendez-Vous, and she delivered exactly what she promised. These aren't just guys and gals in dresses moving their mouths: the show is creative, entertaining and wild. Kitty Glamour as hostess was purrrrrrrrrrr catty, Deana Dawn made Dolly Parton look like Kate Moss, and Tilly herself was fabulous. But when Suppositori Spelling took to the stage, jumped over to the bar and started sashaying through martinis and cocktails as if it were a Paris runway, the crowd went berserk! The next show date is Friday, February 9 at 10:30 p.m. & Midnight at the Club R-V, so don't miss it. The two new young bartenders Joseph and Scott aren't bad to look at, either. Tilly wants everyone to know her shows start on time.

The ever-popular 'N Touch features an Amateur Strip Show on Tuesday nights, and on Thursdays Klub NRG heats up the street

with hot male strippers, fabulous divas and high-NRG dancing hosted by the talented Tita Aida, the First Lady of the 'N Touch. A great Polk St. veteran bartender is the vivacious and silly Danny Dibble. Go see him on Wednesday nights for his Pint Night, or if you don't get your fill, go on Thursday nights for his Pitcher Night at the Cinch Saloon, from 8 p.m. on.

On Sunday, February 11, the Club Rendez-Vous presents an Art Auction and Raffle for the Derek Silva Community Activities Program for people with HIV/AIDS, from 2-6 p.m. Art will be on display, and the party will feature *Vicki's Valentine Show* with MC Amanda St. Jaymes.

## Campaign kick-offs

It's campaign season again! Who are our lovely candidates this year? You can check them out at the Club R-V, starting with Gail Wood on Saturday, February 10, as she kicks off her campaign for Emperor at 8 p.m. None other than Czar & Czarina "Day" Camp Keith & Gladys Bumps will host the event with food, fun and song. The following weekend has our two candidates for Empress vying it out at the Club R-V. First, Tiger Lily on Friday, February 16 has a Kick-Off Party and Show at 9 p.m. The next evening, enjoy candidate for Empress Chablis entertaining at her show (Saturday, February 17 at 8 p.m.) And if that isn't enough, you can meet them all and join the All-Candidates Bus Tour on Sunday, February 18, starting at the Rendez-Vous and making trips to the Giraffe, the Edge, Daddy's and Marlena's. Believe me, if it's anything like previous years, this bus outing is a trip. If you don't want to get on the bus, the Club has their Male

Strip Show at 7 p.m. that evening. We will all miss our dear friend Stan Bates, who was quite a friend to this community. Hal Gage would like to have everyone join him on Sunday, February 11 for a walk through the Polkstrasse in memory of his life partner. The group will start at the Club R-V at 1 p.m., with friends and hosts Empress XXV Marlena and Czarina "Day" Camp Gladys Bumps. The memorial walk continues on to the Giraffe at 2 p.m. Onward to the Gangway at 3 p.m., with Grand Duchesses 17 & 23 Collette La Grande & Renita Valdez ending at Mr. Lee Ona's at 4 p.m., with a buffet and show hosted by Empress XVI Pushy Phyllis and Grand Duchess XVIII Davida, featuring the Merry Widows and the Blaster Sisters. Stan would have a blast and would want us all to do the same.

We here on the Polkstrasse often visit our sister bars in the other queer parts of this wonderful city. Bartender Mike is always a lot of fun to visit at the Edge. Lots of celebration at Mr. Edge Leather 2000 Bob Miller's birthday party on January 25. He still won't tell me what "Bull Doggy" means! Funds were raised for the Stop AIDS Project, with the talents of Sheba and Mr. SF Leather 2000 Lance Gear.

Marlena's in Hayes Valley is featuring piano with the talented Dennis Crow Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. I popped in to see my younger sister, the marvelous Empress XXV Marlena herself, last week. I was returning the dress I borrowed after sewing it back to its original size.

Next time you go bar-hopping, get your butt to the old 'hood and explore something new. ▼

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

your chest good enough to score a spot on next year's calendar?

On the previous Sunday, January 28, the joint birthday party for Leather Daddy Keith Truitt and former AEF prez Rick Salinas, which took place at the Edge, netted over \$6000 for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. A well-heeled financier added a \$5,000 check to the over \$1,000 raised by the beer bust and raffle. It has been a good week for the BCEF, so guys and gals keep on truckin'!

On Saturday, January 27, the Defenders MC held their anniversary party at the Eagle with a big turnout and announcement of their new officers. One of the nicest guys, Jim Remer, was named Leader. Also named were new Vice Leader is David Forbes; Secretary Marc Fuentes, Treasurer Carlos Mosca; ICF Rep. David Forbes and Forum Rep. Mario Torrigino.

This past Saturday, February 3, the Cal Eagles MC celebrated their anniversary at the Eagle. Since I was at the Imperial Gala, I could not be there, but I hear there was a great turnout. At my deadline no news

was reported as to any new officers, or anything else. Stay tuned!

The month of February continues with all sorts of events coming your way, including International Bear Rendezvous with the Int'l. Mr. Bear competition; the Mr. Cell Block Leatherfest at that world famous bar in Chicago; the Pantheon of Leather Awards in New Orleans; the Portland Uniform Weekend in Portland, Oregon; the ICF Motorcycle Awards; and Harry Lit's "Sweat" disco party at 177 Townsend. It should be a fun-filled month for everyone, and of course, almost all of the events are worthy benefits. ▼

## Davies Hall

◀ page 37

to rest on his laurels, nor is he intending to rely solely on his fabulous gift as an instrumentalist. He made his conducting debut at Davies Hall last week, and if the results were underwhelming, at least he made a decent start.

Fashioning the whole concert on a Classical theme was a subtly daring idea. Perlman is known for his big Romantic tone, and Classical works are usually programmed as curtain-raisers on Symphony programs. Still, there could hardly be much debate on the worth or pleasures of Bizet's sunny little Symphony in C major or Beethoven's wonderful Eighth. Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1 in D major, *Classical*, is



Izhak Perlman: big Romantic

also a huge favorite.

Starting the evening by playing and conducting two Beethoven

Romances was also a nice idea. Perlman played them well (a little sourly, but soulfully), but his conducting was unimpressive. The Bizet that followed was arguably the best performance of the night. The Prokofiev, however, was way too schizy, veering from bombast to detailed finesse like a well-coiffed drunk on a tear. The Beethoven was pretty lumpy, too, though Perlman could lay some blame on the horns. It was amazing to see what a richer sound he could elicit from the strings without changing any personnel on-stage.

The audience seemed not to care one bit, and it was a pleasant enough show, but I'm glad MTT is back this week with an all-Stravinsky concert to get the power at Davies back to full force. ▼

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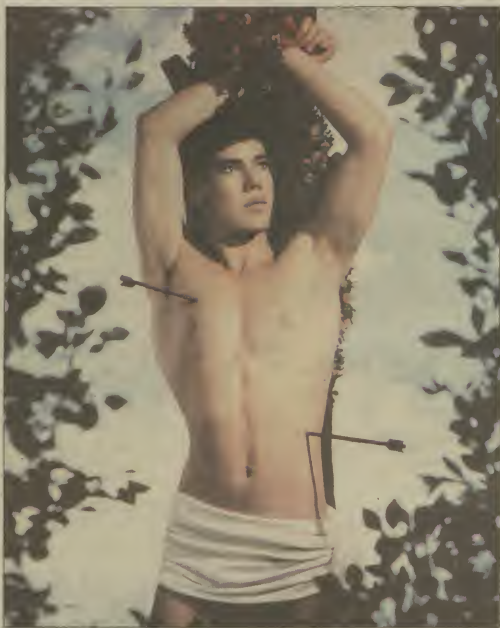


## Pierre et Gilles

◀ Arts cover

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is hosting Pierre et Gilles' first museum survey, and the 55 images on display will inevitably tease, tantalize, and provoke more than a small amount of controversy. It is difficult to describe their work, but I think of their photos as the sort of thing the late George Hurrell might have produced after a long apprenticeship with The Cockettes. All that art theory about a "gay aesthetic" is rendered superfluous by Pierre et Gilles' images. They are so queer, they practically fly off the page. Religious iconography figures prominently in the show, with sparkling images of everyone from Adam and Eve, to Jesus Christ, to a hunky Saint Sebastian, wrapped in a skimpy white towellette, tied to a rose-covered post, and pierced by two tasteful arrows that protrude from his stomach and chest. This Saint Sebastian is a gay boy's wet dream.

But the scope of Pierre et Gilles' work goes beyond Christianity, extending into both Hindu and classic Greek mythology. And in the *Pleasures of the Forest* series (*Les Plaisirs de la Forêt*), the theme of sadomasochism predominates, from the black-clad piercings of "Polly, 1996" to the cum-stained chest of "Johnny, 1996." And when a sweaty Salim Kechiouche, wrapped in a towel and standing next to a urinal, looks back over his shoulder at the camera ("Said, 1999"), he could easily serve as the



Saint Sébastien (detail), with model Bouabdallah Benkamla, 1987

poster boy for gay baths, brothels, and t-rooms the world over.

### Still glamour

The hallmark of Pierre et Gilles' work is beauty — the kind of stylized beauty found in old Hollywood films and publicity stills, combined with the outrageous physical perfection of contemporary gay porn stars. Do not look for the freak show sensibilities of Diane Arbus or the photographic Freudianisms of Richard Avedon's celebrity portraits. With Pierre et Gilles, even martyrdom looks glamorous. Witness the beatific, gilded glow of "Saint Etienne" as he is being stoned to death, and the come-hither pout of "Jesus Christ" as artful rivulets of blood trickle from his crown of thorns. Even the little beggar ("Le Petit Mendiant") sits with outstretched hand and one carefully blackened tooth in a field of glitter.

For religionists, this kind of visual presentation is tantamount to sacrilege; it can provoke the kind

of response generated by Andres Serrano's "Piss Christ." For most gay people, it is simply a goof. And it is impossible to consider that work such as this could emerge from a heterosexual consciousness. The physical perfection, the flights of fancy, the liberal use of glitter, and the frequent presence of muscular, undressed young men all combine to demonstrate a uniquely queer sensibility.

The potentially troubling trademark of Pierre et Gilles' work is the emotional vacuousness of their subjects. Even with a bullet hole at the temple or a fake tear trickling down a cheek, the models' faces remain placid and immobile, recalling the painted expressions found on mannequins. Pierre and Gilles' characters face death like Bette Davis climbing that staircase in *Dark Victory*, or Susan Hayward taking that long, glamorous walk to the gas chamber in *I Want to Live*. In a word, their subjects look fabulous, but they betray no signs



Les Plaisirs de la Forêt (detail), with model Polly, 1996

of an inner life. There is no real drama here, only stylized melodrama. If anything diminishes the critical appeal of Pierre et Gilles work, it is its superficiality, its obsession with surfaces at the expense of what lies beneath.

France, once the international leader in the world of art and ideas, has fallen on hard times. It is, in the eyes of most observers, stuck — trapped in a prison of faded glory and unable to surrender its past in order to break through to its future. Enter Pierre et Gilles, the great

gay pioneers of France's artistic future, or the ultimate devolution of a Gallic artistic tradition, now in decline? You decide. ▼

**Pierre et Gilles' first museum survey runs Feb. 10 through May 6 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Underwritten by Swatch, all visitors to the gallery wearing Swatch watches will be admitted free on Sundays, for the run of the exhibition.**



Jesus Christ, 1988

## Whither the penis?

by Robert Julian

Many denizens of the Castro may be unconsciously aware of Pierre et Gilles' work from the major controversy a portrait of theirs caused in the late 1990s. The portrait in question was a 1995 image of porn star Aiden Shaw, used to promote a large weekend dance party. In the image, the nude, buff Shaw is shown seated and looking up at the camera, wearing little more than a large black cowboy hat and a prodigious erection. When promotional posters containing this image started appearing in merchants' windows in the Castro, women were not amused.

Via many letters to the editor of this publication, and much public comment, some people (mostly women) voiced the opinion that the public display of an erect penis in Castro Street shop windows was inappropriate. Counter arguments focused on free speech, past oppression of queer images, and hearty encouragements to "get a life." In the final analysis, the posters came down.

It appears a similar aversion to the male penis has descended upon Dan Cameron, curator of the current Pierre et Gilles exhibit at Yerba Buena Center. There is not a single example of male frontal nudity in the images assembled for this show. And that is a curious oversight in light of the numerous tantalizing Pierre et Gilles images that are an homage to male pulchritude, often featuring an erect penis, and occasionally displaying one that is bound and trussed.

Seeking an explanation for this oversight, I wrote Cameron, but did not receive a reply. Undeterred, I called him at work several days later, at Manhattan's New Museum of Contemporary Art, where he serves as curator.

Cameron picked up the phone and I introduced myself, reminding him about my previous e-mailed question about the omission of male frontal nudity. "Oh, yes," he replied, "I got that e-mail. It's right here on my desk. I'm sorry, but I was on a trip to Europe and I meant to get back to you. It's on my list of things to do."

I restated the question.

"Is that the only question?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied.

Cameron demurred with audibly interrupted breathing and a smattering of unrelated conjunctions that joined neither noun nor verb. "I'm sorry, but I really have to take this call right now," he concluded. "Can I call you back?"

"That's fine," I said, "or you can e-mail me your answer, whichever is more convenient. I have 24-hour answering service on my phone."

I never received a response. Cameron, no doubt, is the man who put the "guard" in *avant-garde*. ▼



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#### **INDICATION:**

ZERIT (stavudine) in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

#### **SAFETY INFORMATION:**

An increase of lactic acid (lactic acidosis) in the blood, an enlarged liver and liver failure, which can cause death have been reported. Fatal lactic acidosis has occurred in pregnant women receiving the combination of didanosine and stavudine.

Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) has occurred with ZERIT when taken in combination with didanosine and other HIV drugs.

ZERIT may cause numbness, tingling or pain in the hands or feet (neuropathy). This risk is increased in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of neuropathy. If you are taking ZERIT in combination with other medicines that may cause similar side effects, you may have a higher chance of developing these effects.

Frequent side effects in triple combination regimens are nausea, headache, diarrhea, rash, vomiting and neuropathy. ZERIT does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others. **Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking ZERIT.** ZERIT should be used during pregnancy only after discussion with your doctor.

1) IMS NPA Prescription Data 9/99 - 9/00.  
2) 83% (49/59) and 49% (49/101) of patients taking ZERIT with lamivudine and zalcitabine had viral load undetectable at 48 weeks in an as-treated and intent-to-treat analysis respectively. (START 1. Data on file, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company).

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Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 12/00. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

**WARNING**

**LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING STAVUDINE AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS. FATAL LACTIC ACIDOSIS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PREGNANT WOMEN WHO RECEIVED THE COMBINATION OF STAVUDINE AND DIDANOSINE WITH OTHER ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENTS. THE COMBINATION OF STAVUDINE AND DIDANOSINE SHOULD BE USED WITH CAUTION DURING PREGNANCY AND IS RECOMMENDED ONLY IF THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT CLEARLY OUTWEIGHS THE POTENTIAL RISK (SEE WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS: PREGNANCY).**

**FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WHEN ZERIT WAS PART OF A COMBINATION REGIMEN THAT INCLUDED DIDANOSINE, WITH OR WITHOUT HYDROXYUREA, IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION (SEE WARNINGS).**

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

**ZERIT® (stavudine), in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection (see Clinical Studies). Clinical Studies: Combination Therapy.** The combination use of ZERIT is based on the results of clinical studies in HIV-infected patients in double- and triple-combination regimens with other antiretroviral agents. One of these studies (START 1) was a multicenter, randomized, open-label study comparing ZERIT (40 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine plus didanosine to zidovudine plus lamivudine plus didanosine in 202 treatment-naïve patients. Both regimens resulted in a similar magnitude of inhibition of HIV RNA levels and increases in CD4 cell counts through 48 weeks. **Monotherapy.** The efficacy of ZERIT was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind study (A455-019, conducted 1992-1994) comparing ZERIT with zidovudine in 822 patients with a spectrum of HIV-related symptoms. The outcome in terms of progression of HIV disease and death was similar for both drugs.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

**WARNINGS**

**1. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis/Hepatic Failure:** Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including stavudine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received combination of stavudine and didanosine with other antiretroviral agents. The combination of stavudine and didanosine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk (see PRECAUTIONS: PREGNANCY). In addition, deaths attributed to hepatotoxicity have occurred in patients receiving the combination of ZERIT, didanosine, and hydroxyurea. Particular caution should be exercised when administering ZERIT to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with ZERIT should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations). An increased risk of hepatotoxicity, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine and hydroxyurea compared to when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for signs of liver toxicity. **2. Peripheral Neuropathy:** Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving ZERIT therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, a history of neuropathy, or concurrent neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). **3. Pancreatitis:** Fatal and nonfatal pancreatitis have occurred during therapy when ZERIT was part of a combination regimen that included didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea, in both treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients, regardless of degree of immunosuppression. The combination of ZERIT and didanosine (with or without hydroxyurea) and any other agents that are toxic to the pancreas should be suspended in patients with suspected pancreatitis. Reinstatement of ZERIT after a confirmed diagnosis of pancreatitis should be undertaken with particular caution and close patient monitoring. The new regimen should contain neither didanosine nor hydroxyurea.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**Information for Patients (See Patient Information Leaflet in full prescribing information):** Patients should be informed that an important toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be aware that peripheral neuropathy is manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, and that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients who have advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of ZERIT may be required if toxicity develops. Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that when ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. An increased risk of pancreatitis, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with the combination of ZERIT and didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for symptoms of pancreatitis. An increased risk of hepatotoxicity, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine and hydroxyurea. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for signs of liver toxicity. Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. Patients should be informed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection. **Drug Interactions:** Zidovudine may competitively inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of stavudine. Therefore, use of zidovudine in combination with ZERIT is not recommended. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information.) **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** In 2-year carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats, stavudine was noncarcinogenic at doses which produced exposures (AUC) 39 and 168 times, respectively, human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Benign and malignant liver tumors in mice and rats and malignant urinary bladder tumors in male rats occurred at levels of exposure 250 (mice) and 732 (rats) times human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenic

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esis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation). In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days. No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on  $C_{max}$ ) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day. **Pregnancy:** Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on  $C_{max}$ ) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebrae, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. Animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in pregnant women. Stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk. Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received the combination of stavudine and didanosine with other antiretroviral agents. It is unclear if pregnancy augments the risk of lactic acidosis/hepatic steatosis syndrome reported in non-pregnant individuals receiving nucleoside analogues (see WARNINGS: Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis/Hepatic Failure). The combination of stavudine and didanosine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk. Health care providers caring for HIV-infected pregnant women receiving stavudine should be alert for early diagnosis of lactic acidosis/hepatic steatosis syndrome. **Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry:** To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to stavudine and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263. **Nursing Mothers:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV. Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Because of both the potential for HIV transmission and the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving ZERIT (stavudine). **Pediatric Use:** Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients. Adverse events that were reported to occur in 105 pediatric patients receiving ZERIT 2 mg/kg/day for a median of 6.4 months in study ACTG 240 were generally similar to those reported in adults. Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients ranging in age from 5 weeks to 15 years and in weight from 2 to 43 kg after IV, or oral administration of single doses and twice daily regimens (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Table 1 in full prescribing information). **Geriatric Use:** Clinical studies of ZERIT did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 years and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger patients. Greater sensitivity of some older individuals to the effects of ZERIT cannot be ruled out. In a monotherapy Expanded Access Program for patients with advanced HIV infection, peripheral neuropathy or peripheral neuropathic symptoms were observed in 15 of 40 (38%) elderly patients receiving 40 mg twice daily and 8 of 51 (16%) elderly patients receiving 20 mg twice daily. Of the approximately 12,000 patients enrolled in the Expanded Access Program, peripheral neuropathy or peripheral neuropathic symptoms developed in 30% of patients receiving 40 mg twice daily and 25% of patients receiving 20 mg twice daily. Elderly patients should be closely monitored for signs and symptoms of peripheral neuropathy. ZERIT is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, it may be useful to monitor renal function. Dose adjustment is recommended for patients with renal impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dosage Adjustment).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**Adults:** ZERIT therapy has been associated with peripheral neuropathy, which can be severe, is dose related, and occurs more frequently in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine, in patients with advanced HIV infection, or in patients who have previously experienced peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered. When ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. Pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, and liver function abnormalities occur more frequently in patients treated with the combination of ZERIT and didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea. Fatal pancreatitis and hepatotoxicity may occur more frequently in patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine and hydroxyurea (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy study (Study A455-019) are provided by percentages as follows: ZERIT 40 mg twice daily (n=412)—Headache (54), Diarrhea (50), Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy (52), Nausea (40), Nausea and Vomiting (39), and Zidovudine 200 mg 3 times daily (n=402)—Headache (49), Diarrhea (44), Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy (39), Rash (35), Nausea and Vomiting (44). Study A455-019 had a median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks and a median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks. Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 412 adult patients who received ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy study. Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in antiretroviral naïve adult patients receiving ZERIT from two controlled combination studies are provided by percentages as follows: START 1—ZERIT-lamivudine-indinavir (n=100) with a duration of stavudine therapy for 48 weeks—Nausea (43), Diarrhea (34), Headache (25), Rash (18), Vomiting (18), Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy (8); zidovudine-lamivudine-indinavir (n=102)—Nausea (63), Diarrhea (16), Headache (26), Rash (13), Vomiting (33), Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy (7). START 2—ZERIT-didanosine-indinavir (n=102) with a duration of stavudine therapy for 48 weeks—Nausea (53), Diarrhea (45), Headache (46), Rash (30), Vomiting (30), Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy (21); zidovudine-lamivudine-indinavir (n=103)—Nausea (67), Diarrhea (39), Headache (37), Rash (18), Vomiting (35), Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy (10). START 2 compared two triple-combination regimens in 205 treatment-naïve patients. Patients received either ZERIT (40 mg twice daily) plus didanosine plus indinavir or zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir. Pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in patients treated with ZERIT plus didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea, in controlled clinical studies and in postmarketing reports. Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in a controlled monotherapy study (Study A455-019) are provided by percentage with the following parameters: ZERIT 40 mg twice daily (n=412)—AST (SGOT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN (upper limit of normal)—11%, ALT (SGPT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—13%, Amylase  $\geq 1.4 \times$  ULN—14%, and zidovudine 200 mg 3 times daily (n=402)—AST (SGOT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—10%, ALT (SGPT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—11%, Amylase  $\geq 1.4 \times$  ULN—13%. Data presented for patients of Study A455-019 for whom laboratory evaluations were performed. Study A455-019 had a median

duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks and a median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks. Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in two controlled combination studies, START 1 and START 2 are provided Grades 3-4 presented first by percentage as follows: (Grades 3-4) START 1—ZERIT (stavudine)-lamivudine-indinavir (n=100)—Bilirubin  $\geq 2.6 \times$  ULN (upper limit of normal)—7%, SGOT (AST)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—5%, SGPT (ALT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—6%, GGT  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—2%, Lipase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—6%, Amylase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—4%, zidovudine-lamivudine-indinavir (n=102)—Bilirubin  $\geq 2.6 \times$  ULN—6%, SGOT (AST)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—2%, SGPT (ALT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—2%, GGT  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—2%, Lipase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—3%, Amylase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—1%. Percentages for (Grades 3-4) START 2—ZERIT+didanosine-indinavir (n=102)—Bilirubin  $\geq 2.6 \times$  ULN—16%, SGOT (AST)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—7%, SGPT (ALT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—8%, GGT  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—5%, Lipase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—5%, Amylase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—8%, zidovudine-lamivudine-indinavir (n=103)—Bilirubin  $\geq 2.6 \times$  ULN—8%, SGOT (AST)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—7%, SGPT (ALT)  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—5%, GGT  $\geq 5.0 \times$  ULN—2%, Lipase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—5%, Amylase  $\geq 2 \times$  ULN—2%. Percentages for (All Grades) START 1—ZERIT-lamivudine-indinavir (n=100)—Total Bilirubin—65%, SGOT (AST)—42%, SGPT (ALT)—40%, GGT—15%, Lipase—27%, Amylase—21%, zidovudine-lamivudine-indinavir (n=102)—Total Bilirubin—60%, SGOT (AST)—20%, SGPT (ALT)—20%, GGT—8%, Lipase—12%, Amylase—19%. Percentages for (All Grades) START 2—ZERIT+didanosine-indinavir (n=102)—Total Bilirubin—68%, SGOT (AST)—53%, SGPT (ALT)—50%, GGT—28%, Lipase—26%, Amylase—31%, zidovudine-lamivudine-indinavir (n=103)—Total Bilirubin—55%, SGOT (AST)—20%, SGPT (ALT)—18%, GGT—12%, Lipase—19%, Amylase—17%. **Observed During Clinical Practice:** The following events have been identified during post-approval use of ZERIT. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to ZERIT, or a combination of these factors. **Body as a Whole:** abdominal pain, allergic reaction, and chills/fever. **Digestive Disorders:** anorexia. **Exocrine Gland Disorders:** pancreatitis (including fatal cases) (see WARNINGS). **Hematologic Disorders:** anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia. **Liver:** lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), hepatitis and liver failure. **Musculoskeletal:** myalgia. **Nervous:** insomnia. **Pediatric Patients:** Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

**OVERDOSEAGE**

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdose include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. Stavudine can be removed by hemodialysis; the mean  $\pm$  SD hemodialysis clearance of stavudine is  $120 \pm 18$  mL/min. Whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis has not been studied.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The initial interval between doses of ZERIT should be 12 hours. ZERIT may be taken without regard to meals. **Adults:** The recommended dose based on body weight is as follows: 40 mg twice daily for patients  $\geq 60$  kg and 30 mg twice daily for patients  $< 60$  kg. **Pediatrics:** The recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 1 mg/kg/dose, given every 12 hours. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dosage. **Dosage Adjustment:** Patients should be monitored for the development of peripheral neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. These symptoms may be difficult to detect in young children (see WARNINGS). If these symptoms develop during treatment, stavudine therapy should be interrupted. Symptoms may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the recommended dose: 20 mg twice daily for patients  $\geq 60$  kg and 15 mg twice daily for patients  $< 60$  kg. If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered. **Renal Impairment:** ZERIT may be administered to adult patients with impaired renal function with adjustment in dose by patient weight as follows: Creatinine Clearance (mL/min) of  $\geq 50$  [ $\geq 60$  kg—40 mg every 12 hours and  $< 60$  kg—30 mg every 12 hours]; Creatinine Clearance (mL/min) of 25- $\geq 50$  [ $\geq 60$  kg—20 mg every 12 hours and  $< 60$  kg—15 mg every 12 hours]; Creatinine Clearance (mL/min) of 10-25 [ $\geq 60$  kg—20 mg every 24 hours and  $< 60$  kg—15 mg every 24 hours]. Since urinary excretion is also a major route of elimination of stavudine in pediatric patients, the clearance of stavudine may be altered in children with renal impairment. Although there are insufficient data to recommend a specific dose adjustment of ZERIT in this patient population, a reduction in the dose and/or an increase in the interval between doses should be considered. **Hemodialysis Patients:** The recommended dose is 20 mg every 24 hours ( $\geq 60$  kg) or 15 mg every 24 hours ( $< 60$  kg), administered after the completion of hemodialysis and at the same time of day on non-dialysis days. **Method of Preparation: ZERIT for Oral Solution.** Prior to dispensing, the pharmacist must constitute the dry powder with purified water to a concentration of 1 mg stavudine per mL of solution, as follows: 1. Add 202 mL of purified water to the container. 2. Shake container vigorously until the powder dissolves completely. Constitution in this way produces 200 mL (deliverable volume) of 1 mg/mL stavudine solution. The solution may appear slightly hazy. 3. Dispense solution in original container with measuring cup provided. Instruct patient to shake the container vigorously prior to measuring each dose and to store the tightly closed container in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit-flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label and in the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of this insert. ZERIT for Oral Solution (NDC No. 0003-1968-01) is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water.

US Patent No. 4,978,655

**Storage:** ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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## MUSIC

# A gay handle on Handel

## Early Music out on CD

by Jason Serinus

A number of wonderful recordings of vocal works by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), and one by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), have been released of late. Each offers such a winning combination of glorious, frequently great singing and superb conducting and playing that any laments about a lost "Golden Age" of singing seem behind the times.

First on the shelf is Handel's delightful 1740 *Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (Virgin), a two-disc "pastoral ode in three parts" composed after poems by John Milton. With John Nelson conducting Le Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, this recording is so filled with delightful, virtually unstoppable melody and the exuberance of fresh creation that one wastes no time trying to figure out what supposed plot or common thread holds this half ode/half or-



atorio together. The music is enough.

I have been assured by at least one gay Early Music conductor, whose concerns about retaining his "other" job prevent him from coming out in print, that the Early Music community is filled with gay brothers. Nelson's all-star cast includes at least one gay singer, countertenor David Daniels, and the San Francisco-based lesbian soprano Christine Brandes. Daniels' homosexuality and longterm relationship have been a matter of public record for quite some time, the curious experience of hearing this man sing suppos-

edly heterosexual love songs to another man discussed at length in *The New York Times*. But Brandes' orientation, and her summer 2000 marriage to conductor Karla Lemon, first receive public airing, with her permission, in this review.

Surely, on a musical level, Daniels and Brandes have nothing to fear. Both are great singers; any one stupid enough not to cast them would merit the well-deserved ire of music lovers everywhere. Daniels' unique voice comes as a shock the first time around, but it is impossible not to capitulate to his combination of beautiful tone, flawless coloratura, and, when called for, perhaps the most impeccable legato to grace today's concert stage. Chris is equally accomplished, her marvelous rendition of "Sweet bird" chirping its song for all the world to hear.

Curiously, in this world of musical androgyny, Daniels sounds more like a woman than a man, the fine soprano Lynn Dawson like a boy until she lifts above her lower range, and the presumably straight, married tenor Ian Bostridge (who wears too much lipstick in some of his postured poses) like someone who must be gay. Only Brandes and bass Alastair Miles sound as you'd expect a woman and a man to sound. All this adds to the fun, melodies and genetics melding into an unstoppable mellifluous flow. Be sure to

catch Lynn Dawson's "Or let the merry bells ring round," joyfully accompanied by Jory Vinikour's carillon, and the Disc Two cuts reminiscent of *Messiah*.

### Super sonics

David Daniels reappears in Handel's 1711 opera *Rinaldo* (Decca), a three-disc set conducted by Christopher Hogwood and The Academy of Ancient Music. Sonics are super, with the addition of chirping birds and convincing thunder providing a delightful simulation of the opera's actual premiere, which featured pre-*Star Wars* pyrotechnics and the frequent in-house release of prolifically-eliminating sparrows. Equally amazing is the singing.

The main cast offers no fewer than three countertenors, and definite androgynous confusion in the voice of alto Bernarda Fink, who sometimes sounds like a countertenor in drag. Daniels, though his voice sometimes seems a bit small and dry, sings the lead of *Rinaldo* to perfection; no matter what demands are placed upon him, he produces a flawless stream of sound. Canadian countertenor Daniel Taylor, a long-haired blond who I've been assured is straight, sounds best in slower pieces, his superb legato contributing a touchingly beautiful "Sorge nel petto certo diletto." Bejun Mehta, Zubin's son, has graduated from boy soprano to countertenor, and does a creditable job. Not that it



matters, but soprano Luba Orgonasova actually sounds like she has a woman's organs. As for mezzo Cecilia Bartoli, who sings the smaller soprano role of *Rinaldo's* betrothed Almirena, her spectacular voice and technique virtually tear the pants off anyone who may actually be wearing them. Given all these high voices, the marvelous, steady, powerful voice of Gerald Finley as the King of Jerusalem comes as a welcome counterpoint, providing sufficient testosterone to bring things back into balance.

As for the music, the Overture is good enough to stand by itself as a great composition, but one may reach one's share of marches and Sinfonia in the last act. The opera is not as consistently inspired as *L'Allegro*. Thankfully, one cannot get enough of Bartoli's "Lascia ch'io pianga," which rivals the poignant, stylistically inauthentic but emotionally heart-breaking 1922 rendition by Claudio Muzio; Daniels' heart-tugging "Caro sposa" and many wondrous coloratura flights; and fantasies of what Gerald Finley's voice might transform into when channeled into lower chakra energy.

page 48 ►

# For the common man

## 'Celluloid Copland' on CD

by Michael McDonagh

The first classical music I ever heard live was by Aaron Copland. That experience — in Hayward, no less — had a big impact on me. And why? Because the music was direct and communicated vividly. Copland's centenary was celebrated last year with lots of performances, and with the release of CDs including one by the San Francisco Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas. Now we have New York's Eos Orchestra in a Telarc album of four film scores, its release timed to coincide with PBS' *Copland's America* (check local listings), in which it plays a starring role. Eos' first CD was all Paul Bowles, and their latest, led by music director Jonathan Sheffer, is equally fascinating and fun.

Film music has gotten a bad rap, especially in America. In Europe, nobody cares, and Copland's contemporaries like Prokofiev and Honegger went back and forth from film to concert work, as did Benjamin Britten. Like him, Copland was gay — though not, I think, especially out — and worked in as many genres as he could, with remarkable results in each. Being a child of his time, he sometimes scored films with social concerns, like his first, *The City*. Written by leftist Pare Lorentz, who did two earlier documentaries with composer Virgil Thomson, and shot by Paul Strand, it was first shown at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Copland's music is energetic and highly imaginative, especially cues like "Taxi Jam," with its skittering strings, and "New England Countryside," which has fluid, delicate orchestration and wry, bouncing rhythms. The Office of War documentary *The Cummington Story* (1945) was about the resettlement



of presumably Jewish refugees in a Massachusetts town. Copland's music here is highly lyrical, string dominated, in his idealized Americana vein.

He wrote the score for Lewis Milestone's 1943 *The North Star*, which starred Anne Baxter ("Eve, Eve") and Erich von Stroheim in a Lillian Hellman script about the Nazi rape of a Russian village. Copland's score is appropriately grand, with lots of fanfares and drum tattoos, and touching. There's even the witty "Going to School," which sounds like a French children's song, and a wonderful oddity, "The Song of the Guerrillas," which has perfectly serious words by Ira Gershwin! *From Sorcery to Science* couldn't be more different. Written for a puppet show at the '39 World's Fair, it's snappy, and shows the composer's command of styles — Mexican-Afro-Cuban in "African Voodoo," and advanced French-derived harmony in "The Alchemist."

Copland wrote five other Hollywood scores, including one for Wyler's *The Heiress* (1949), which earned him and Olivia de Havilland Oscars, and the Carroll Baker starrer *Something Wild* (1961). His pupil Alex North stayed in Hollywood and prospered. Copland succeeded, too, in almost everything he did. Sheffer's orchestra responds superbly, and the sound is brilliant and clear, with lots of punch. ▼

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## PARTING GLANCES

**Leather Buddies-Wed. 12/27**  
You: Short Asian, medium build, black leather vest. Me: White, bare bottomed, slim & smooth - serviced you. Talked, but no phone # asked, let's meet elsewhere. ☎ 72763

**Castro Starbucks 12/23**  
Me, black shirt, goatee, book. You: blue shirt, dark hair, book. My title: "Too shy to talk." Yours? Can we compare notes? ☎ 72744

**19th St. @ Sanchez- Dan (?)**  
You gave me the best massage. I need your home #. Pls call. Mark ☎ 72806

**New Years At Club Universe**  
Back room. You, cute boy in black. Me, feather mask, confetti thrower dancing with friend. Gave you string necklace and hug. Gotta have you! ☎ 72764

**Supershuttle To SF0, Fri 12/22**  
10:30am, we shared the seat behind the driver. You were going to NY. I was going to Chicago. A woman talked about disadvantaged kids in LA. Want to meet for coffee? ☎ 72765

**12/25 Evening Air-Bart-Embarcadero**  
We sat opposite each other. You: green army pants/Banana Republic sweatshirt. Me: black jeans/jacket. Noticed your growing bulge. Want to do something about it? Call! ☎ 72743

**Thurs 12/21 18+ Church 3pm**  
You cute Latino. Me tall blonde Berkeley student. We tried but 3rd party interrupted. Let's try again. You call the shots... ☎ 72762

**Hickory St. X-Mas**  
U in kitchen and bartender: brown hair, brown beard, 1lhr jacket & harness. I asked if your tits were real, you said they were completely organic. Call to make an opening. ☎ 72822

**"Anja," Mr NL & Indra, The Cafe Jan 2**  
The sexy cat/ computer lady and Mister Gorgeous wanted by Swedish, ponytailed sailor, girlie. Unfortunately, I couldn't find my way back again... Do get in touch again! ☎ 72784

**"Jane," Sweet Good Boy, I Desire**  
Fluvio, please talk Jane into calling again or call yourself & tell me he is safe & in love with someone else. Steve, bear, Dolores SFG. I am wounded by his kisses. ☎ 72785

**Gap, Flood Building 1/7/01**  
We talked at the check out. Gap.com-athletic socks- platinum amex- Costco. I've seen you before- I would enjoy knowing you more. Please call. ☎ 72786

**New Years Eve @ Midnight Sun**  
You: Michael, 37, cute, newly arrival from San Diego, living in San Mateo. Genuine smart ass! Me: the tall handsome, fun, debonair guy you should have gone home with. Call. ☎ 72787

**Johnfrank Fri 1/12 10:30pm**  
Waiting for restroom. You: white shirt, good looking, nice smile, well built. Me: gray/black sweater, beard, short hair. Would like to continue where we left off. ☎ 72805

**Folsom Bookstore 1/9 7:45 pm**  
Me: black sweatshirt, army jacket. You: white shirt, beautiful vest, smile when you kiss. Your popper spilled. I blacked out. I'm humiliated, but need you in my bed. Second chance? ☎ 72807

**Autocity Brushless Carwash**  
So. Van Ness, Wed. 17th, parted glances at the carwash. Gave you your cig. Remember your eyes, smile and more. What are the chances of getting together? ☎ 72819

**Hole In The Wall Morning Of**  
Marlin Luther King Day. Both briefly separated from friends. Me: leather. You: too, earlier. We'd had same kind of night. Sore. Friend took you away. Wanna meet again? ☎ 72820

**1/7 Moma Anderson Collection**  
And Gay Mens Chorus 12/3. You 5'8" Asian. Me: 5'6", Caucasian. Lots of eye contact. Want to meet over coffee? Life's short- why not take a chance. ☎ 72821

**01/21 In Front Of Daddy's**  
You: Bill. Me: waiting for my friend to go to dinner. It was so rushed. Let's pick up where we left off. Call me! I know what I'm hungry for! ☎ 72823

**The Dark Crystal, Suggested I,**  
For your students. We, sheltered from the freezing rain, huddled, humbled by freezing rain, numbing wind, shook hands. Let's heal our crystal. Plant your shard! ☎ 72848

**Hot Cop @ SF Gay Parade 2000**  
You: Hop SF cop, GWM, salt & pepper hair. Me: GWM, grey beard-Hawaiian shirt- took your photo in Civic Center- would like your # & date. ☎ 72849

**Sean- Saturday Night 12/30 Stud**  
We met outside Sugar and each thought we were familiar. I looked for you on the dance floor in hopes to continue our conversation. Any chance we still can? R. ☎ 72767

**Friday 12/6am Div @ Fell St. Stop**  
Light. Friday morning, stopped at light on Divisadero. Both looked as we continued. Me: black Toyota. You: black/blue car? I took right on GG Ave & waved. Let's meet- have date. ☎ 72850

**Fubu Latin Man @ City Entainmt**  
Fri. 1/12, saw you later @ Shell Gas Station, I'm Latin guy w/N.Y. cap & white Audi. Let's connect? ☎ 72851

**1/23 Union City Century 25**  
"The Pledge" 7:55 show. You sat high in back wearing a light blue jacket, khakis, and black ankle boots. Do you prefer to watch alone or would you like some company? ☎ 72852

**Dancing WhiteHorse 1/26**  
You in my dreams. You: muscular, goatee, arm w/ tattoo, Latin features wider glasses man. Me: shy, dancing within your vision & smile. Let's create magic!... Friday... call ☎ 72853

**Barnes & Noble 12/30**  
You- wearing backpack. I smiled at you a few times and all the way down the escalator. Want to meet for tea/coffee? ☎ 72766

**Mille Grazie, Jano**  
Thank you for your kisses. Steve, Dolores St. Bear SF ☎ 72854

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Younger Poz Bottom Sought**  
Black male; 5'10", 185, 43, dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, 32" waist, 44" chest, 43, nice body, quiet, mature man, seeks muscular poz bottom, 35 and under, for intimacy, warmth, closeness. ☎ 72745

**Handsome Animal/Plant Lover**  
Kind, gentle, sensitive, strong, masculine, easy-going, playful, self-aware. Passion for nature, kissing, cuddling, sucking, homelife. Seek same who is a homeowner. I'm 48, youthful athletic, 6'2", 190lbs. Very good looking, shave head, moustache. ☎ 72809

**Hot!, Hot!, In Antioch**  
I will close the curtains, light a couple of candles as you sit on the bed showing me your big dick. I will model around showing you my fine clean ass as we enjoy a cocktail, smoke, music. I am 38yr. old, horny Frenchman, handsome. You may be average but have a hot cock. ☎ 72746

**Hi My Name Is Ralph**  
I am looking for a girlfriend between 18-24. I am 40years old that love the Lord Jesus Christ in my life and, I have AIDS. ☎ 72747

**SR GWM Seeks M.O.C.**  
GWM in S.F. sincere fit bearded, 67, 5'9", 155# HIV neg. N/D ISO mature masculine Black, Latino, over 45 for erotic play, J/O. ☎ 72768

**Wanted: Cuddly SF Bear/Cub-**  
GWM, 30-50, facial/body hair, versatile share adventures, art, architecture, massage with GWM, 42, 6'3", hairy/beard, versatile, leather, professional. No smoke/drugs. ☎ 72769

**Top Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
GWM, HIV+37yrs, bottom, seeks HIV+ hot top for hot erotic safe sex. Me: br, hzl, 6'1", love br, br, 50's but not required. No games apply. ☎ 72770

**Diaper Boy ISO A Daddy**  
LTR minded, only please. I am 38yo 5'11", 195 brown hr hzl/eyes looking for a dad that is strict but loving heavy A+ diaper spanking fun. ☎ 72771

**Kabuki Theater 12/31 3:30pm**  
Me: Asian w/baseball cap says "Canada". You: White w/glasses @ balcony. You gave me big smiles. I was way too shy to respond to you. Wish to meet you. ☎ 72772

**Santa Rosa Area Or SF On Wknds**  
Seeking other hardbodies. I'm 47, handsome, smooth 39" c, 29" w, w/b abs 5'9", 145#, sincere spiritual, strong, & loving, enjoy hot tub, massage & hot sex. ☎ 72773

**Dominant Masculine WM**  
Goodlooking man with hard bod, 5-10, 165, 40ish professional seeks young, HIV- cleancut, 18-39 sub-bosy for fun, possible LTR. ☎ 72774

**"I'm A Great Catch!!!"**  
WM, late thirties, brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6'1", 185lbs, clean-shaven, gym going, academic, HIV-, nice, warm, stable, communicative, non-superficial, engaging, humorous. You: 25-45, college educated, professional, dark hair and eyes. ☎ 72788

**Best Buds**  
Masculine Italian topman ISO another masculine buddy to "hang" with. Drinks, dinner, movies, clubs, travel (vacations) etc. Looks, age, race, top or bottom not important. Masculine men only!! ☎ 72789

**Live In Relationship E. Bay**  
58yr. old Germanic with large swanz and house seeks companionship in kitchen and bedroom. Be HIV+, healthy, bottom with talent on the computer and a warm casserole. ☎ 72790

**Gentle Soul Seeks Same**  
GWM, 44, balanced, honest, communicative, playful, contemplative, settled yet adventuresome, enjoy film, reading, travel, gardening. Prefer N/S, N/D, light drinker, HIV-neg. Want sensual, romantic type for dating. LTR oriented. ☎ 72791

**Looking For Companionship**  
Gay Asian 65yrs 5-9 150lb need close contact with trim, goodlooking man under 40 for friendship, travel conversation and love. ☎ 72792

**Seeking Tall Husky Hairp Top**  
You: Over 6' husky to stocky, hairy a plus. Me: balding, sandy & pepper, 5'9", avg build, 40's seeking versatile play partner. ☎ 72793

**Erotic Liaison.**  
Sexy mature man seeks bossy, aggressive man, any age. We do what ever you say. Otherwise sociable & equal. ☎ 72808

**Middle Age Black Gentleman**  
Seeks middle age Hispanic gentleman. I'm sincere, honest, discreet and have much to share. Big plus if you are husky and have dark hair, skin and moustache. ☎ 72810

**Financially Secure Male Wanted**  
I am seeking a mate who is financially secure for a relationship or fun and good times. Call me. ☎ 72824

**Mulatto Guy Sexy, Educated**  
Intelligent, and good looking. Seeking guys for a relationship or just plain fun. Let's get together. ☎ 72825

**Love To Suck**  
Men 6' or more for a steady relationship. I'm 6'2", 165 GWM. Come after work or short time on weekends. I go deep and take it all! ☎ 72826

**GWM 42 Good Heart!**  
Me: 6'3" green/blue eyes, 200lbs, s&p hair versatile btm - like music, movies & the good life. You: 30-45yo, sincere & fun HIV- only please. ☎ 72827

**Cautious, Contentious, In-**  
Shape 40 yr GWM (6'2"-180) loves mutual butt munching & J/O, nice guy seeks another equally clean, disease free and capable serial monogamy for ongoing uninhibited encounters. ☎ 72828

**Concord Guy Seeking A Boyfriend**  
I'm a GBM 36yo/5'8", 142lbs. Nice cock. Friendly, funny, and cute. Only for WGM 18 to 40. No fats. You won't be sorry! ☎ 72829

**Real Person Wanted**  
36, professional, WM, sensitive, looking for friendship and maybe more. You 25-45, WM, down to earth and know what you are looking for in another. ☎ 72830

**Top Dad ISO Hot Poz Boy 4 LTR**  
GWM 43, 6'0", 195#, s/p, hz, goatee, masc. top. UR: 38, W/HLat All-American boy w/wedge- lean 2 musc, w/g8 butt. Vanilla 2 leather. ☎ 72831

**Very Lonely Solano County Man**  
45yo WM affectionate, honest, sincere, loving, seeks similar to be a friend, maybe more; I like men with moustache's; I look forward to your call. ☎ 72832

**VGL Latino Boy ISO Hot, Young**  
Generous dad type. Me: 5'7", 135, HIV+, seeks guys similar to be a friend, interested, to spoil a good "boy". Please call. ☎ 72833

**Hot French Love**  
French guy in 30's 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in 30's. ☎ 72834

**Yogi Bear Seeks Boo-Boo Bear**  
Handsome, romantic HIV- top 210# 6'1" brown hair green eyes 42, seeks HIV- btm bear cub 37-45 for dating, intimate encounters and possible ltr. N/S, N/D pref. ☎ 72855

**2001 Odyssey**  
Befriend this sensuous senior who will transport you into outer space. 5'11", 150, hazel eyes, wavy hair, great kisser. Prefer slim Latinos or Asians. Let's wine, dine, romance in Hayward. ☎ 72856

**HIV+ Latin Male**  
39, 5'8", 155 bmn, brn eyes looking for ltr with HIV+ male Latin or White. Me top- very open minded and enjoy a good looking man's company. Call if interested. ☎ 72857

**Top Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
GWM, HIV+ bottom; ISO HIV+ top, for erotic man to man pleasure play. Me, bl, hzl, 6'1", slim. ☎ 72858

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Filipino Top Wanted**  
GBM 40 is seeking a Filipino top for fun. Any age, looks not important. (Please call). ☎ 72795

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**Have You Read...**

Conjuring The Flesh or Apprenticed To Pleasure by Brandon Fox, "cool scene", Isn't it? Group of images forming. Learn to touch the kel by understanding pleasure. Initiates wanted, call Ander to meet. ☎ 72748

**East Bay**

Appreciative, mature Academic male seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. ☎ 72749

**Mine's Big**

Looking for someone who can take it. Looking for someone who can handle it. Looking for someone who can go all night long. Search me, 24/7. Raging. ☎ 72750

**Oakland Guy**

36, shaved cock and balls, HIV+, seeks other positive guys for mutual oral and J/O. Prefer cut cocks and shaved. Let's have some fun. ☎ 72751

**Mature Masculine Submissive**

Seeks dominant top 40+ for erotic BDSM play. Sub is intelligent, experienced, imaginative. ☎ 72752

**Great Downtown Head**

GWM 50, not gym toned, gives excellent head to hung men over 8" any age, race, I am 6', 188lbs, brn, handsome and love oral sex. ☎ 72753

**I Need A Slow Hand**

Boish Asian seeks the strong hands of a smooth gym toned GM or AM to massage my full body. Enjoy hot tubing too. ☎ 72754

**Naked On Your Knees**

Are you masculine and submissive with a tight trim body from 20 to 44? Would you like to take orders for some role playing fun with a trim dominant WM 43? ☎ 72755

**Hot Bottoms Wanted**

By White top 56yrs old 6' 160lbs. brn/bm glasses big 9" cut cock wants to fuck young bottoms ages 18-39. Be hot & smooth bodied. ☎ 72757

**Ties And Toes All Go's**

I have a heart for all that blows. I'm a 5'6" bottom and like all. Please give it to me. ☎ 72758

**Tit Play Zaps My Dick & Brains**

Yours too? Let's do each others' easy and rough till totally crazed. Musts: hairy, intense, 40+, tall, GWM, SF. ☎ 72760

**Straight**

Looking for hot straight cocks to suck on by two deep-throat experts. Good-looking and Latins are a plus. ☎ 72778

**I Love My Dad/5'9" 200lbs 42**

GWM seeks very hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate & cute. Must have fun & outgoing personality. ☎ 72761

**Hairless Bubblebutt Bottom**

Wanted by WM 48, 6' 175 gym toned with nice dick & ass top HIV+. Be in shape. I am Asian, Black rimmers A+++. ☎ 72775

**Palo Alto Asian Male 44 5'11"**

190 blk-brn likes to suck cock that can get rock hard for me to deep throat. Prefer Penisula area and between 3pm to 10pm your place. ☎ 72776

**South Bar**

58, 1k younger, 6', 212, shavedhead & body, uninhibited, sub. bottom seeks dom. top(s) to play with, 50-70, cauc, sincere, exper. your place. ☎ 72777

**Seeking A Very Well Hung Stud**

Nice-looking White bottom, seeking nice dominant White or Latino top 18-40 with nice looking body, huge thick dick to get together to fuck my tight hot asshole good. ☎ 72756

**HelpMeFromThisTorturesExdesire**

Oversized x-tra smooth GAM 37, 220, 5' 8" seeks open minded men 18-45 for ongoing sex action only. Your place weekdays. Discretion guaranteed. No drugs. Serious only. ☎ 72779

**Hairy Blond Or Red Head Bottom**

Is what I'm looking for. I'm 38 6' 200lb. A hairy Italian with 8 inches. Call if you love hot oral & anal action. ☎ 72794

**GWM Asks For Asian Cock To Fuck**

Need Asian tops to fuck my asshole while I'm on my belly. Me: Caucasian, mature, hairy, stocky, big ass. You: slender, smooth, HIV- Asian man who likes to fuck ass. ☎ 72796

**2001 Is For Great Sex! ISO Top**

For serious oral servicing. I'm 48, S&P, hairy chest, tall and lean with long-distance love. UB clean, in-shape take control guy up for some discrete fun. ☎ 72759

**Young European Boy**

This very cute submissive boy from Europe is ready to be trained by you or your friends in their 20's or 30's only. Total obedience is guaranteed. ☎ 72797

**Oral Service**

GWM, 45 br/bl, g'lee, 5'8", 160, healthy loves to give oral service to guys my age or older. Muscular, hairy A+. Oakland/SF. ☎ 72798

**Sonoma County Resident**

45yrs old Latino gay male. I love nice hard dick to suck, fuck. I have nice hot, wet ass for you. ☎ 72799

**Handsome Top Seeks Bottoms**

Hey guys, I am blond, 38, hung 8 inches uncut, in-shape, 5'8", 160 and fun. You are in-shape, bottom and very friendly. Let's play now. ☎ 72800

**So Far Still Straight But....?**

38yr old Italian Irish 5'8", 165lbs, 31" waist 7" x 5" cut huge, head shaved balls and ass, bikini tan line, masculine, good looking seeks hung Black cocks and ass. ☎ 72811

**I Love My Dad/5'9" 190lbs 42**

GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate & cute. Must have fun & outgoing personality. ☎ 72812

**Skinhead Muscibear Wrassler**

Hairy goateed skinhead wrassler bear ISO romper brawlin' bears and stomper agro skins into NHB wrassler and fightin' for top bareassed in boots; leather; stmr; military kit; belts; chains. ☎ 72813

**Big Man Bottom Into Butt Play**

Straight acting 6'2"-210lb. looking for tops into FF, toys, open to other play. ☎ 72814

**I Am Looking For Hung Guys!**

I am seeking guys who are hung at least 9- inches or larger for fun and good times. Please give me a call. ☎ 72835

**Italian Guys! I Am Seeking**

Just the right Italian guy for fun and a good time. If you are hung or good looking a plus. Call me. ☎ 72836

**I'm A Sucker For Older Men**

Bi WM looking for older, senior men- 50's, 60's, 70's. Black, White, Latino, Asian- Straight, Bi, gay. Not getting enough at home? I like it cut, big & floppy. ☎ 72837

**Handsome Hung Italian**

Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 72838

**Uncut? Over 55? Gay Or Straight**

Will suck you off in my Noe Valley flat. Evenings- weekend. Professional- discreet. Hairy A+. Regular weekly sessions? HIV-. ☎ 72839

**Age 46 But Hung And Horny Man**

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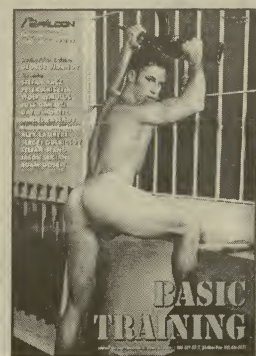
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# Valentine's videos

by Bob Findle

**T**he perfect stay-at-home Valentine's Day? Exchange paper hearts and flowers, dine by candlelight, and then watch a romantic video. What could be better than seeing your great love reflected in the warm glow of the TV while wrapped in a big, comfy blanket as you sit on the couch with your one true snugglebunny?

Maybe taking that trip to Bali, but how soon is that going to happen?

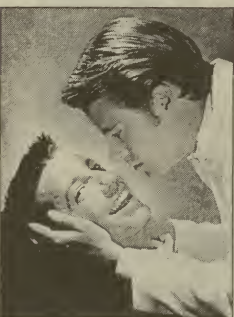
Even if Cupid's stinging shaft misses your rump this year, this list of Valentine's Day gay videos is still an invaluable lonely hearts resource. Watching one or two of these while you chase away the Valentine's Day blues by killing off a quart of Triple Fudge Nut ice cream chased by a bag of Double Stuffed Oreos could help. You can watch two impossibly handsome men cuddle and coo, bump and woo, while you spoon and chew.

**Another Country:** Richly and beautifully filmed, this early '80s movie is set in an architecturally magnificent English prep school. And we do know about English prep schools — how the boys are often busy conducting impromptu anatomy lessons on each other in dressing rooms and boat houses.

The cast features three then-unknowns: Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and Cary Elwes. Firth is Everett's Marxist roommate. Elwes is Everett's love interest. Two scenes here are just what Cupid ordered up to stimulate some cuddling and smooching. One is in a restaurant, where dark, brooding Everett tries to express his love feelings to shy, bright-eyed Elwes. The other scene is when the two spend the night in a rowboat, floating on the school's lake while talking under the stars until dawn.

Underneath it all is a simple, minor-key piano soundtrack.

• Later picks: Everett: *The Next Best Thing*, My Best Friend's Wedding, Firth: *The English Patient*, Valmont, Elwes: *Shadow of the Vampire*, Robin Hood: *Men in Tights*.



Sean P. Hayes and Brad Rowe in Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss

**Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss:** Is coffee-jockey Gabriel gay or not? Is in-puppy-love Sean Hayes barking up the wrong tree? Find out what happens when they sleep together as "just friends" for the first time, in a great goosebumpy scene. Hayes is a man in pursuit of love, and damn the trouser torpedoes. He is very cute in the film, his marionette face and expressions endearing (unlike his *Will & Grace* Jack character, who has become too brittle). *Billy's* is both funny and a heart-tugger.

• Musical bonus: Nina Simone's "Love Me or Leave Me"

and Petula Clark's "This Is My Song" are in the soundtrack.

**Boys' Life:** The first (1995) is the best offering in the series of gay film shorts. All three stories deal with young men coming of age and coming out. The little, cherubic darlings have quite the angst-filled time of it, what with being mixed up, one foot in the closet, one foot out. Their thwarted attempts and longings for romance and affection are played with a tongue-in-cheek realism that will have you smiling when you recognize your own first stumblings on the road to Boyfriendland. The mirroring will cause you to hug your Valentine partner tightly.

• Career update: Two of the three young directors went on to later projects. Brian Sloan wrote and directed *I Think I Do* in 1997, and Robert Lee King directed *Psycho Beach Party* in 2000.

**Breakfast at Tiffany's:** Right, no gay characters, but still one of the most romantic films ever made. Sweet without being cloying; clever without being too camp. Audrey Hepburn, all big eyes and waif body, is perfect in her signature role, and the young George Peppard as a reluctant gigolo for older society woman Patricia Neal never looked more

GQ handsome than here. Besides the delightful, witty storyline, the romantic classic "Moon River" comes from this film's soundtrack.

• Literary sidebar: Rumor has it that Truman Capote wrote the madcap Holly Golightly (Hepburn) character based on how he wished his own life was. Try not to imagine Holly as a pudgy, bespeckled NYC queen. It shouldn't be hard.

**I Think I Do:** Studly soap star Sterling is ready to tie the symbolic knot and make the commitment with fickle Bob. To complicate things, while at a straight friend's wedding, Bob is spending time with Brendan, his unrequited college crush. Brendan is still as sexy as ever, and now is giving off signals that he might be interested back. What is Bob to do? Take the chance and pursue hot monkey love with babolicious Brendan, or stay safe and start selecting the china pattern with steady Sterling? In the vein of a Rock Hudson/Doris Day comedy, *I Think I Do* is cute, fuzzy warm, and doesn't require a lot of attention to be enjoyed.

• Best Lips Award: Alexis Arquette's thick, full lips fill up the screen rather nicely. They are so kissable you may end up necking with your TV.



Alexis Arquette in *I Think I Do*

**Longtime Companion:** A tear-jerker that you might not think of as a Valentine's Day pick. Think again. This story of a group of friends confronting AIDS through the '80s has several relationships, romances and deep friendships intertwined with the tragedy. The love, support and care shown between the men is the stuff life should be made of.

Unlike the pasteurized *Philadelphia*, here the men kiss like lovers do, and share the same beds. A relatively unknown cast keeps the focus on the story, with no grandstanding performance to distract. This melancholy movie will get you appreciating your boyfriend/lover. If you are alone, it can facilitate a nice cryfest that will help ease the emptiness. The

final scene always gets me weepy, no matter how many times I see it.

• Prep note: Have at least four tissues handy.

**Trick:** No one gets beat up, no one dies, no one is rejected by family, no big political point is made. *Trick* is engaging fluff about two men who meet one New York night and have a hard time finding a private place so they can have a hard time with each other's willies.

It actually is not as crass as that sounds. Director Jim Fall laces the story with a light touch of whimsy and several outrageous supporting characters, including scene-stealer Miss Coco Peru as a mean drag queen ("It burns!"). Plus, star J. P. Pitoc shaking his bodacious bare go-go boy booty is worth the rental fee alone. Get those pause and rewind buttons ready. You're going to need them. The other star, Christian Campbell, is adorable in his freckle-faced Howdy Doody way. You can't help but want to have your carnal way with him every time he is on the screen.

• Diva trouble: Supporting star Tori Spelling was none-too-happy that many people who saw the movie thought her and dragster Miss Coco Peru to be one and the same. ▼

## First Thursday

◀ page 33

maladjusted and dysfunctional who claim cartoonist R. Crumb as their awkward forefather, according to curator James Bewley. Truth be told, most of these artists are very nice, well-adjusted individuals, but they act out on the gallery walls the revenge of the nerds.

Some of the titles say it all: Eric White's "Young Gary Cooper in Termit Mount with Post-It" is a superbly rendered acrylic painting of exactly what its title says. Hanging next to it is White's view of "Pelicans" outside the window of what appears to be a senior citizen's home whose occupants appear as electrified negative, rather than positive, images. Illustrator



Mission High School Portraits, by Christine Shields, 2000

Christine Shields' *Mission High School Portraits*, stretched out across a gallery wall, show 10 but-toned-down adolescents who spring to life as if from a National Lampoon yearbook, complete with tongue-in-cheek "most likely to..." fantasies beneath the acrylic-on-paper portraits.

Well-known local artist Thomas Plagemann, whose work appeared alongside the Jerome Caja tribute at SomArts Gallery last year, has filled a dedicated gallery with his haunting line drawings. Rendered on beautiful supports which seem to have browned with age (gracefully toned mulberry paper, or stained

linen), the drawings belie the gentility of their media. The 19th-century-looking drawings bear titles like "This Lucky Couple Met in a Chat Room!" and show frenzied figures carrying out the drama of their lives against a backdrop of classical architecture. Plagemann's own beautiful frames add to the jarring contrast between form and content in his work.

Some of the best work I saw this month came from some of the least-known artists. A show of photographic work by San Francisco Art Institute undergrads and graduate students is on view at ATA (Artists' Television Access.) There is a lot to look at in this group show in a small, alternative space, but those that spoke to me most strongly were a stunning black and red "movie still" from a film that is still in production by Jaren Bonillo, who works with the relationships in her own life and uses her own life's cast of characters for her actors. She produces the luminous c-prints herself. Will Mebane's moving gelatin silver prints are a series of portraits of a 9-year-old boy with Downs Syn-

drome. Mebane himself has two mentally challenged siblings, a fact which makes this work resonate particularly strongly, but the black-and-white photos stand on their own as confrontational portraits which explore the concept of normalcy. Julie Blankenship's "Dark Mirror" series are manipulated and collaged 19th-century portraits of children. The small-scale works encase the small figures in layers of media through which they barely peer. The artist says that she thinks of the subjects of the anonymous photos as Dickensian working children. Located at 992 Valencia St., ATA gallery is open 2-10 p.m. Mon.-Wed., and 2-11 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. The SFAI show runs through February 24.

Another Art Institute-related installation is at Refusalon (20 Hawthorne St.) through February 27. *Fold* is a wall projection in the underground gallery which was staged by Marie-Ange Guilleminot and a group of SFAI students who manipulate a piece of white fabric like a parachute during a videotaped two-and-a-half performance. Viewed from

above, it resembles a sea urchin, which is the subject of Guilleminot's ruminations. For the artist, the sea urchin is a reminder of the Hiroshima bombing because of its resemblance to a mushroom cloud.

For further recollections of things not-too-far-past, stop by the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society (973 Market St., Suite 400, open 2-5 p.m., Tues.-Sun.) Terrence Kissack has installed the photographs of Barbi Schreiber in *One Life For Another: The Survivor's Story*. Her portraits of people with AIDS were photographed between 1987 and 1990. A discussion of artists' response to AIDS will take place at the GLBT Historical Society the afternoon of February 18. Call 777-5455 for more information. The photo exhibition closes on March 4.

A number of the galleries at 49 Geary have held over their January shows this month, and it gives you another few weeks to see Deborah Oropallo's new work at Wirtz and the haunting photographs and daguerreotypes of Adam Fuss at Fraenkel. ▼

## Handel

◀ page 45

### Wicked witch

Bartoli, who sings in Berkeley February 28, is even more astounding singing the soprano role of the wicked sorceress Armida in Joseph Haydn's 1784 opera of the same name. Nikolaus Harnoncourt, conducting the occasionally harsh violins and other authentic instruments of the Concentus Musicus Wien in this live recording (Teldec), knows just how to provide Bartoli the support she needs. It is not that La Bartoli tries to upstage anyone, but her singing is so spectacular that, when placed alongside tenor Christoph Pregardien, or anyone else for that matter, she unavoidably dwarfs her comrades. Although Bartoli's voice is not large, and best heard in the smaller venues she rarely frequents in this country, her intensity in "Barbara! E ardisi ancor Odio, furor, dispetto" rivals



Callas. No, she does not have Callas' weight or bone-chilling darkness, but her far more beautiful sound, stupendous shotgun technique, and searing fury are enough to take one's breath away. Haydn's music may not consistently engage with the same flood of creative genius as Handel's *L'Allegro* or the late operas of Mozart, but there is plenty here, including the wonderful, ecologically-sound packaging by Teldec, to merit purchase.

Dorian's single-disc recording of what is perhaps Handel's great-

est Italian cantata, the 1710 *Apollo e Dafne*, receives sterling treatment from Les Violons du Roy conducted by Bernard Labadie. Karina Gauvin, the dream soprano, sings flawlessly, occasionally exhibiting a trill of such color that I wish she would trill on for many more measures. While much of her singing suggests the beauty of maturity, she lessens her vibrato to perform a "Felicissima quest'alma, ch'ama sol la liberta" of meltingly innocent purity, her duet with Marie-Andree Benny's flute adding to a performance Handel lovers will play over and over. Listen to how she and the orchestra produce a perfect pause in the midst of the aria, and create an ideal *rallentando* at the close. Lyric baritone Russell Braun lives up to his last name, on only a few occasions suggesting that he is other than a god through and through. As to be expected, Dorian's sound is super, providing the icing on a quadruple layer cake of baroque riches. ▼



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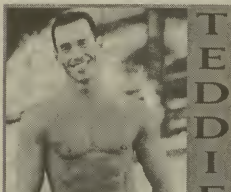
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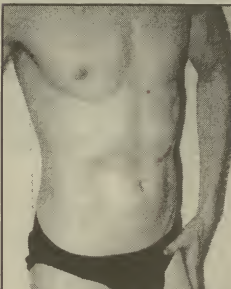
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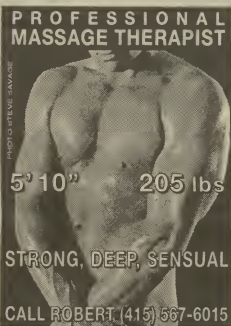
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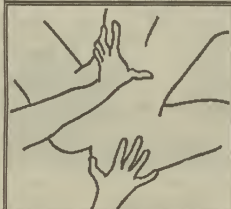


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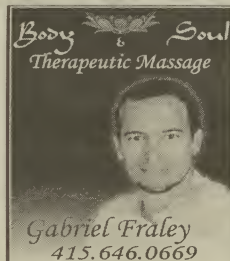
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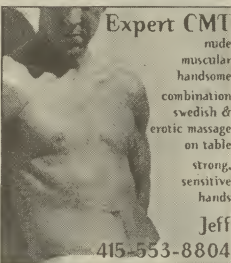
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Tight lean bod hairy chest/legs  
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Vry gd looking French Mediter  
HORNY UNSCL TOP 7"  
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Boyish, cute, slim, blond bottom  
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Handsome dominant top  
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Seeks in shape muscle bottoms  
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Justa few words from my endless  
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Wotever u need, this 24y 8.5" can  
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Angelo 414-4664

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Sexy str8 & very attractive  
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**HANDSOME LATINO**  
All scene Ricco pg 540-8612

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Bondage,  
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CBT,  
F/F,  
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Slave  
Training.  
41yo,  
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Brown Hair,  
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7" Uncut.  
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Have equipment and playspace.  
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25yo 6' 165# muscular, tatooed,  
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**HOT AND HORNY 27Y/O**  
Muscular butch boy easily going  
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Good-looking bi top, 25 yo, 6ft, 160 #,  
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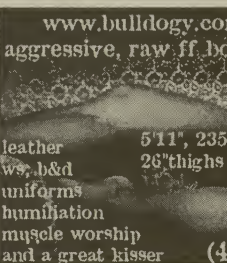
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Mild to  
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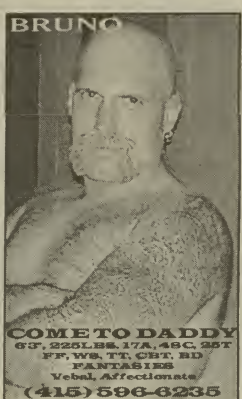
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HUNG & WAY EZ ON THE EYES**  
6'1" blind/hzl 35 165# nice tan  
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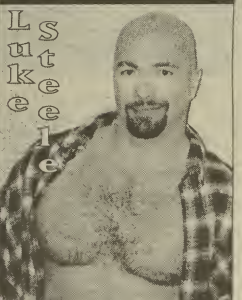


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Discipline! Your place only.  
Sir (510) 337-1232

SF Neg Top, 45, needs horny younger  
bottom with hot mouth, smooth butt,  
wide open hungry hole \* 551-1520

CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
**JOHN BERNAL MR EAGLE**  
AND  
**HOUSTON DAVENPORT MR  
POWERHOUSE**  
GOOD LUCK IN THE MR LEATHER  
OF SAN FRANCISCO CONTEST ON  
FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2001

**FREE APARTMENT SHARE**  
AGE: 18-35 - LIKE BJ-JO-69  
**CALL (415) 552-4707**

Escort Wanted  
in Los Gatos/Santa Cruz. Looking for  
7+'' wooly untrimmed crotch,  
heavy hangers. Long staying & multi-  
ple a real ++. Under 50 any body  
type. LonelyInLosGatos@nightmail.  
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**POWER  
STROKE**  
"within your reach"  
**1-206-888-0078**  
18+ LD toll to Seattle may apply  
[www.badboys.com](http://www.badboys.com)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
**DUDLEY SAUNDERS**  
Mr. Faultline Leather 2001. Good  
Luck at Mr. L.A. Leather, March 24

**BE  
MINE!**  
**THE SAN FRANCISCANS  
VALENTINE'S NIGHT PARTY**  
THE EAGLE TAVERN  
Wednesday, February 14th 7-11PM  
Beer & Soda - Donation: 7 Dollars

Seek Bearded Dicksucker  
Super nice HIV- guy 52 on PEN sks  
depthroater 2-3 Mo. Am 6/236#  
BR/BL. 650-599-9595. Butch

**BID AND MADE!**  
Bridge-Spring-DC  
[www.bridgeblossom.com](http://www.bridgeblossom.com)

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VACATION IN FANTASYLAND  
This is not a trip to Disneyland  
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Blowjobs, etc. 415-285-8390

**ENEMAS**  
Given to hot boys,  
young, smooth and athletic.  
Call The Coach 409-7070

**LONELY IN NEW HOPE, VA**  
If you remember me, give a call:  
**THOMAS ALLAN POWERS**  
540-249-5402 OR 540-249-5403



## PEOPLE

**Meet Local Men!**  
Connect with  
**HOT SEXY LOCAL MEN!**  
TONIGHT on  
**The Confidential Connection!**  
Listen & Respond to personal ads! 18+  
Call 415-247-2000  
Use Access code 3981

**415-MAN-TALK**  
626-8255  
**TALK\*SEX\*PERSONALS**  
**LTHR\*FETISH\*S/M\*KINK**  
18+\*MC\*V\*AE\*D\*CHECKS

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**LEATHER FETISH S/M KINK**  
**TALK SEX PERSONALS**

**Tall, Dark & Huge!**  
Connect with **HOT LOCAL MEN!**  
TONIGHT on **Club Voice-MALE!**  
Browse/Match/Chat! 18+  
Call 415-247-5555  
Use Access Code 1348

**415-MAN-TALK**  
626-8255  
**TALK\*SEX\*PERSONALS**  
**LTHR\*FETISH\*S/M\*KINK**  
18+\*MC\*V\*AE\*D\*CHECKS

**MALE CALL**  
"you get the picture"  
  
1.206.  
312.0006  
18+ LOW LD TOOL

## DID YA HEAR????

There's a new restaurant/bar opening on Polk Street. Harvey's has expanded from the Heart of the Castro to the Heart of the Polk!!! Stop by on Thursday Feb. 8, 2001 for our grand opening.  
Food/Beer/Wine/Spirits/Fun/Harvey's The Heart of the Polk.

E07



## XXX WEB

[www.sf-fetishfactory.com](http://www.sf-fetishfactory.com)  
  
San Francisco Fetish Factory  
**674-5925**

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Hot, all-male amateur and fetish video. Feet, suits, jockstraps and more. Original on-line video+live guys. No pop-ups! VHS tapes also available • 415-674-5925

E06

<http://www.escortsusa.com>

## ESCORTS ONLINE

Free to advertise, free to browse. Full page ads for every guy with color photos plus xxx gallery of hot SF escorts. See it all before you call him!

E06

## XXX WEB

**FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP!**

**11,000+ MEN**

**SERVED DAILY**



**m4m4sex.com**

## BAY AREA REPORTER

## CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

## DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.

Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
BOLD double price  
X-BOLD triple price

## PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express  
Minimum \$10 charge.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

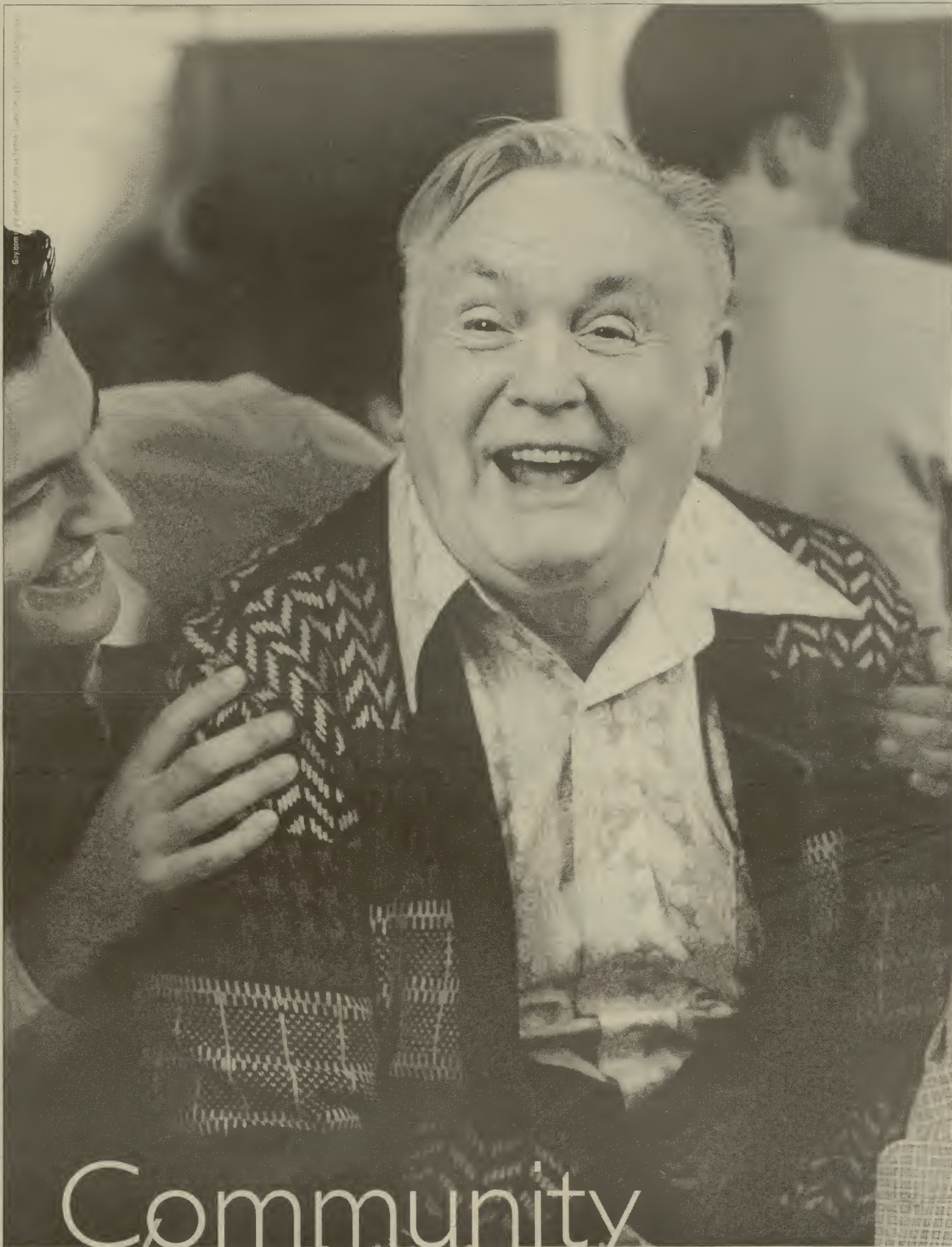
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:**  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
SF, CA 94103  
**OR FAX TO:**  
415.861.8144  
**OR E-MAIL:**  
baradv@aol.com

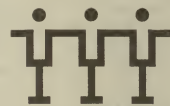




# Community

Welcome home. This is it. Where our community stays online to get news, find information, seek entertainment and reach more people, all of the time.

The Gay Network. [www.gay.com](http://www.gay.com)



GAY.COM